

International Conference

ENFORCED AND INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES IN DICTATORSHIP AND AUTHORITARIAN PAST AND CONTEMPORARY SETTINGS: A SOCIAL, LEGAL, AND HISTORICAL APPRAISAL OF TRANSITIONAL AND TRANSFORMATION POLICES AND MECHANISMS

About the Conference

Both in the OSCE region and beyond, the fate of the missing is an issue of concern for many countries that have experienced authoritarian regimes and dictatorship. Relatively common features include limited progress in the finalization of the lists and records of the missing persons, as well as in the search of the execution places and potential grave location; lack of strategies and a decrease in the financial and human resources devoted to these tasks. In addition, in many countries financial compensation for victims and their relatives remains insufficient and barely reflects the moral and psychological suffering endured since the alleged disappearance. Not unfrequently, identification and excavation of burial sites are promoted and funded by the relatives of the missing persons. Moreover, the current legal framework in force in countries in the OSCE region and beyond requires at times significant amendments as to the definition, typology and timeframe of the alleged criminal offences and their investigation, to the technical processes and their deadlines as well as to the stakeholders and the modalities of the cooperation among them. Enquiring about and locating persons unaccounted for constitutes a state's obligation enshrined first and foremost in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICIPED), according to which enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity when practised in a widespread or systematic manner, and states are under the obligation to make the offence of enforced disappearance punishable by appropriate penalties and to investigate it as continuous offence. Those obligations are linked to and complement multiple human rights foreseen and protected by a number of international instruments. Said rights range from right to security, liberty and dignity of the person to the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to a family life, the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to effective and official investigations, etc. Against this background, the

Conference aims to bring together academics, practitioners and policy makers from any region of the world that experienced authoritarian regimes and dictatorship to explore and rethink the issue of the missing in transitional justice and transformation settings to foster human rights and rule of law.

Date

13, 14 and 15 December 2021

Venue

MAK Albania Hotel, Illyria I, Tirana

Language

English (with simultaneous translation from and to Albanian)

Conference Organizer

OSCE Presence in Albania

Centre for Justice and Transformation/University of Tirana

Donor

Federal Republic of Germany

Convener

Mr. Claudio Pala, Head of Rule of Law and Human Rights Department, OSCE Presence in Albania

Conference Secretariat

Ms. Irina Ademi, Project Assistant, OSCE Presence in Albania
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Conference Program

13 December

Zoom Details

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/97719294875>

Meeting ID: **977 1929 4875**

Passcode: **13122021**

11:30 – 12:00 Registration and Coffee

12:00 – 12:30 Welcome Speeches/Opening Remarks

His Excellency Vincenzo Del Monaco, Ambassador, Head of OSCE PiA

Prof. Dr. Artan Hoxha, Rector of the University of Tirana

His Excellency Ulsi Manja, Minister of Justice, Albania

Ms. Ermonela Ruspi, Special Section Commissioner, People's Advocate

His Excellency Peter Zingraf, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

12:30 – 13:15 Keynote Speech: *Never Too Late: An examination of Albania's on and off again experience with Transitional Justice.*

The lecture provides a brief overview of the legacy of Albanian communism and the essential need for a comprehensive approach to transitional justice that ultimately never happened. It will further examine the measures and methods applied since 1992 alongside an assessment of the entire process until today. The focus will be on lustration/vetting, file access, missing persons and the role of politics in shaping what was ultimately a fraught and disjointed attempt to create a meaningful reckoning with Albania's communist past.

Robert Austin, Professor and Associate Director, Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto.

Robert C Austin (Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto), is a specialist on East Central and South-eastern Europe in historic and contemporary perspective. In the past, Austin was a Tirana-based correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; a Slovak-based correspondent with The Economist Group of Publications; and a news writer with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. Austin has written articles for The

Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, Southeast European Times, Orbis, East European Politics and Societies and East European Quarterly along with numerous book chapters. His first book, “Founding a Balkan State,” assessed Albania’s experiment with democracy between 1920 and 1925. In 2019, he published “Making and Remaking the Balkans: Nations and States since 1878.” In April 2021, he published an Albanian translation of the revised and expanded edition of the book as “Bërja dhe Ribërja e Ballkanit: Kombet dhe shtetet që nga viti 1878” with Koha. His latest book, “A History of Central Europe – Nations and States since 1848,” appeared in November 2021 with Palgrave Macmillan. He is now writing a historical fiction centred on the life of Albania’s King Zog.

13:15 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 Panel I: *Transitional Justice, Missing Persons and Memory Politics in Albania today*

Memory and narratives on coming to terms with legacies of violence and human rights violations influence and even shape the debates on politics and justice in societies transitioning from authoritarian regimes, armed conflict, and colonialism, calling for condemnation, apology, reconciliation, and justice for the victims and their relatives. This panel will analyse the debates on memorialising the abusive past, and how transitional justice mechanisms have been used and misused in helping societies in transition to cope with their past marked by massive human rights violations. The case of Albania will be presented and contextualised with other countries dealing with their past, and particularly with Western Balkans countries that have or have not dealt with their past, to show how past keeps returning, how past is weaponized in the political debate, how it has become controversial and contested, and why addressing the issue of the missing is important for the identity of the countries in transition. It will also offer a reflection on the particular meaning and potentials of memorial sites for the process of dealing with violence-burdened past in Albania and elsewhere. Additionally, the panel will look into digital mapping of memories as a tool to enable the collection of all archival, historical, oral documents and to reproduce a memory of places of suffering, a memory of people who suffer in them and burial sites of missing victims.

Moderator: **Andi Pinari**, Vice Dean and Lecturer in Modern European History at the Department of History, Faculty of History and Philology of the University of Tirana.

Florian Bieber, Director of Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz.

Florian Bieber is Professor for Southeast European History and Politics at the University of Graz, Austria. He is also Vice President of Association for the Study of Nationalities and coordinates the work of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group. He is the coordinator of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) and has been providing policy advice to international organisations, foreign ministries, donors and private investor. His research interests include democratization, institutional design in multi-ethnic states, nationalism and ethnic conflict, as well as the political systems of South-Eastern Europe. He has authored and co-authored dozens of

books, journal articles and news columns, including in the field of nationalism and ethnic conflict in the South-eastern Europe (especially Western Balkans).

Enriketa Pandelejmoni, Associate Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of History and Philology of the University of Tirana

Ms. Pandelejmoni is also Associate Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana. She has been a researcher at the Center for Southeast History at the University of Graz in the period 2000-2007. At the center of her studies and publications is the modern history of Albania and the relationship between history and memory, with a special focus on the communist past in Albania. She is the author of the monograph *Shkodra: Familja dhe Jeta urbane (1918 - 1939)*, Lit Verlag, Vienna 2019, as well as co-author of the volume “*Shqipëria. Familja, shoqëria dhe kultura në shekullin e 20-të*”, Lit Verlag, Münster, 2012.

Jörg Lüer, Secretary General of the Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax, Germany

Mr. Lüer is an historian. Since 2009 he is Vice-Chairman of the Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation. Since 2013 he is member of the Council to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on crisis prevention, conflict management and peace policy. Since 2010 he is member of the board of trustees of the national foundation “Flight, Deportation, Reconciliation”.

Gentiana Sula, Head of the Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents (AIDSSH)

Gentiana Sula is the Head of the Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents (AIDSSH) since its creation in 2017. Its main focus has been collecting, declassification and digitally organizing 2 km of Sigurimi archives allowing full access for the affected individuals and their families, institutions (related to vetting) and researchers. AIDSSH is running an oral history collection related to those files, and facilitate research and civil education in support to reconciliation, peace and democracy. Her continuous interest has been truth-seeking and enabling social justice. From 1998 till 2012 designed or appraised projects for the World Bank and UNICEF which related to human resource development, education, child protection, and human rights in fragile societies. Some countries of experience were Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. She holds a PhD in education equity and has published several articles and reports on the matter. Served as Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY) from 2013 until spring 2016 and provided political leadership in reforming vocational education and public employment services. At the same time, coming from a family persecuted by the Albanian communist regime, she was engaged in issues of transitional justice, which gradually became that included fairer policies for the moral and financial rehabilitation of former political prisoners, the creation of conditions for the transparency of dictatorship crimes by pushing legislation allowing opening of the files of communism, and the recovery of the remains

of the missing during 1944-1991. She represents Albania in the European Network of Remembrance and Solidarity and is a member of its advisory board.

Çelo Hoxha, Head of the Institute for Study of Crimes and Consequences of Communism in Albania

Çelo Hoxha has been an employee of the Institute for the Study of the Crimes and Consequences of Communism in Albania (ISKK) since its establishment (2010). He has worked as a journalist and columnist for several newspapers, the crimes of communism have been a constant concern in his articles. He studied at the master's and doctoral level at the Institute of History, Academy of Albanological Studies, Tirana. His master's and doctoral theses were themed from the period of the communist regime in Albania. He is the author of several studies, many scientific articles, all on the topic of the history of the communist regime, and one of the leaders and authors of the 10-volume project, "Encyclopedia of Victims of Communist Terror", published by ISKK. His book "Crimes of the Communists during the War, 1941-45" (2014) has been one of the most debated study books in the post-communist period.

Erald Kapri

Erald Kapri is an Albanian author, journalist and researcher. He studied journalism at University of Tirana and communication at University of Westminster in London. Since 2014 he is lecturing communication at University of Tirana. He published "Secrets of the War", a book on Second World War in Albania and "King Zog, behind closed doors" for same period. He contributes at Kujto.al, an online archive on communism crimes and he is head of scientific board in Albanian public Institute for Studying Consequences and Communism Crimes, Erald shares a wide interest on "culture of memory" and modern history.

16:00 – 16: 20 Discussion

16:20 – 17:20 Papers Presentations

Natalia Mahecha Arango: *"An archive of unknown human remains: The disposal of N.N bodies in cemeteries in Colombia, 1990-2020"*

Alba Jakupi, Egzona Begjeti: *"Missing persons, right to know and democratic consolidation in Kosovo"*

Ardita Repishti: *"Public communication on sensitive and classified findings and testimonies on the missing, in the context of collective memory and education for democracy"*

Valbona Pllaha: *"Analyze the speech/language of informants, collaborators, investigators, judges by researching in Former State Security Sigurimi Documents 1944-1991"*

Anjza Xhaferraj: *“Një analizë diskursi e strategjive të ndjekura nga PPSH për të normalizuar zhdukjet e njerëzve në Shqipëri gjatë komunizmit”*

17:20 – 17:40 Discussion

14 December

Zoom Details

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/93728653706>

Meeting ID: **937 2865 3706**

Passcode: **14122021**

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 10:15 Keynote Speech: *The truth, justice, reparation and memory as victim's rights and state's obligations*

Time cannot heal the wounds of enforced disappearances, the truth, justice and reparation can. The keynote speech will address these elements in view of the existing international context of enforced disappearances and its contemporary forms, while identifying the challenges faced by dealing with past disappearances. The Albanian context will be illustrated to put into evidence the rights of the victims of enforced disappearances and the obligations of the States, at the domestic and international level.

Dr. Suela Janina, Member of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance

Dr. Suela Janina is a member of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances. She has been among the first members of the Committee from 2011 and has exercised the functions of Vice Chair and Chair during two mandates. Ms. Janina is a career diplomat. She joined the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999, where she had previously a number of diplomatic appointments. Currently, serves as Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to the European Union since 2014, as well as Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg. Ambassador Janina has a wide experience with international organizations.

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 Panel II: *Domestic and International Obligations to Investigate Cases of Enforced Disappearance.*

The State's obligation to conduct effective investigations regarding missing persons is either inferred from or recognized domestically as well as in a number of international instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, sub specie of right to life, right to the truth and the right to justice. Additionally, specialized international bodies such as the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances monitor the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention for the Protection of All

Persons from Enforced Disappearance, respectively. And yet, despite such structured legal framework, there is still insufficient awareness of the competent institutions of the international human rights obligations in the field. This panel will analyze modes, processes and practices in enquiring and investigating the fate of missing persons, including - when possible - criminal investigations, from a domestic and international perspective.

Moderator, **Remzije Istrefi-Peci**, Judge at the Constitutional Court of Kosovo¹, Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina.

Mirela Bogdani, Associate Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tirana.

Ms. Bogdani teaches Legal and Political Institutions of the World and Legal Research and Writing at Law Faculty of the University of Tirana. She has attended several specialization courses in country and abroad, including at the Queen Mary University of London and at the at Washington College of Law, American University. She is works as researcher at the Centre for Justice and Transformation, University of Tirana. She serves as HELP [Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals – CoE Project] Focal Point for Albania. She is also a trainer in the Continuous Training Program for legal research and writing modules at the Albanian School of Magistrates.

Sokol Stojani, Director of the Directorate of Institutional Coordination, Decriminalization Sector, at the General Prosecutor's Office, Albania.

Mr. Stojani was appointed as prosecutor to the General Prosecutor's Office in 2008 and since then he headed the main directorates of the institution. He has pursued a number of postgraduate qualifications in the field of justice. Throughout his long career, he has provided prominent contribution to the Albanian prosecution system and has been highly praised by local and international law stakeholder.

Nadia Rusi, Professor of Law at University of Tirana, Albania

Nadia Rusi possesses an extensive academic background coupled with a strong legal counseling experience in the area of human rights and gender equality, working as coordinator and/or external expert in several international and national projects in collaboration with the Center of Legal Civic Initiative in Albania, Un Women, ERRC, PNUD etc. Her current research interests include international human rights law and gender equality in which she has authored several articles in Albania and internationally. She has been part of many international and national conferences within her fields of interest.

Bogusław Tomasz Czerwiński, Prosecutor at the Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation, Institute of National Remembrance of Warsaw, Poland

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Mr. Czerwiński conducts and supervises the most important investigations against communist or German Nazi perpetrators such as the martial law cases, the killing of Polish citizens on former Czechoslovak and Austrian border, KL Auschwitz investigation and KL Stutthof investigation. He is IPN coordinator of the investigations concerning German Nazi concentration camps as well as the contact point of the 'Eurojust' Genocide Network. He is author of articles regarding the crimes committed during Nazi and communist regime in Poland.

Albert Dervishaj, Deputy General Director of the Albanian State Police

Since August 2020. Mr. Albert Dervishaj performs the duty of the Deputy General Director of the State Police, with the police rank of "Senior Officer". Mr. Dervishaj has completed courses, training programs, seminars inside and outside the country, such as in Louisiana (USA), Rome (Italy), etc., for which he is certified in terms of strategic management, management, planning and supervision of the police organization, the role of the police in crisis management and terrorist acts, for teaching gender perspective in policing, data protection, immigration management and cooperation in the Balkans, on the investigation of international crime, etc. During his career, he has taught at the Tirana School of Magistrates, the Security Academy and several private law universities. He is the author and co-author of professional articles and texts, such as: "Police in the face of reality", 2003; "Tirana, Capital in order of European parameters", 2006. "Police Law", 2004; DPQ Tirana Guide, 2005, etc.

Dragana Spencer, Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Greenwich, UK

Ms. Spencer is has published widely in international journals on various aspects of international and transitional criminal justice, including articles in the International Criminal Law Review, International Journal for the Semiotics of Law and the European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Her research interests and teaching practice lie in international criminal law, public international law, human rights and public law. Throughout her career, she has advised governmental bodies and non-governmental agencies in the UK and abroad on implementation of procedural human rights and law reform.

12:30 – 13:10 Expert Speech: *Enforced Disappearances: 40 years of United Nations action to combat impunity.*

The lecture will address the historical and normative framework of enforced disappearances as an international crime and a human rights violation. It will also discuss the scope of States legal obligations, including in the particular context of transitional justice processes. In addition, it will analyze how the United Nations' Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has influenced the evolution of human rights norms in this specific area of international law.

Prof. Bernard Duhaime, Professor on International Law at the Faculty of Political Science and Law of the University of Quebec in Montreal.

Prof. Duhaime – former member and Chair of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances - teaches international human rights law and specializes in the inter-American system for the protection of human rights. He is a Trudeau Foundation Fellow, a Visiting Professor at Paris II University, an Associate Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy and a Senior Fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Center on Human Rights. He is a senior counsel of the Quebec Bar. He has been contributing to the promotion and defense of human rights since 1996, having worked or collaborated with various international and national human rights agencies, having taken part in multiple observation and training missions in the field and having produced numerous institutional reports. Prof. Duhaime advises or has advised several human rights and indigenous peoples' organizations, human rights lawyers and defenders, international organizations and states. He represents and assists many victims and human rights defenders in contentious cases before the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, specialized UN agencies and mechanisms, the European Court of Human Rights, etc.

13:10 – 13:20 Discussion

13:20 – 14:20 Lunch Break

14:20 – 15:50 Panel III: *Institutional Setting and Identification Processes.*

The issue of missing persons during the period of communism is a painful one that is still causing debate in Albania. There are many institutional, organizational and procedural gaps to be filled, including the role of state institutions in identifying these remains. In a comparative perspective with countries in the region that have a longer and consolidated experience in the field, the panel will analyze tasks, responsibilities and capacities of the institutions involved in the process, to find ways to achieve coordination of work between them, as well as recommend policies on how to improve this process. In addition, representatives of relatives of missing persons will talk about their experience unveiling the truth about the disappearances of their beloved ones.

Moderator, **Luigj Ndou**, Head of Government Relations (Pristina, Tirana), International Commission on Missing Persons

Alma Mele, Director for Coordination and Monitoring of Prefectures., Ministry of Interior

Ms. Alma Bime Mele is part of the management staff in the Albanian Ministry of Interior since 2014. She currently holds the position of Director for Coordination and Monitoring of Prefectures. She previously worked in the private sector and the State Police. In addition to many professional trainings, in November 2021 she completed the Senior Security and Defense Course at the Armed Forces Academy, accredited by NATO. Since 2015 she is the First National Trainer for Asylum Issues in the Republic of Albania. From 2015 to 2017 she was also one of the negotiators of chapter 24 for

Albania in the EU, on asylum and migration issues. From 2018 she is also part of the Team of Albanian Experts "On the search, exhumation, identification, and reburial of Greek soldiers who fell in the war, in Albania, during the Greco-Italian war, 1940-1941, and the construction of a shelter for them in the territory of the Republic of Albania."

Bledar Xhemali, Director of the Albanian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Since 2004, Mr. Xhemali has been working as medicolegal expert in the Institute of Forensic Medicine and from 2013 he is Director of the Institute. He is also Lecturer of Legal Medicine in the University of Medicine in Tirana. Mr. Xhemali has actively participated in several conferences and is author or co-author of several publications in the field of legal medicine, anthropology and forensic toxicology. Mr. Xhemali is also member of the Balkan Academy of Forensic Sciences. From 2017 he is leader of the Albanian group for research and exhumation of fallen Greek soldiers in Albania during the Greek-Italian War in 1940-1941, based on the agreement between Greece and Albania in 2017.

Arsim Gerxhaliu, Director of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Kosovo²

Mr. Gerxhaliu is member of the Kosovo³ Commission for Missing Persons as well as head of the sub-working on Dialogue with Serbia State for Missing Persons. He teaches Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina. In 2003 he joined OMPF – UNMIK and in from 2008 he cooperates with the EULEX forensics experts. Over more than twenty years, Mr. Gerxhaliu has worked on more than 6000 missing persons cases, conducting examinations, inspections, exhumations and meetings with the representatives of the missing persons' families.

Amor Masovic, Member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, former Chairman of the Bosnian Federal Commission for Missing Persons.

Mr. Masovic is a Member of Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a former Chairman of the Commission for Missing Persons. Under his leadership the Commission's investigative teams had as of 30 December 2007 located over 370 mass graves and over 3,000 joint and individual graves and the exhumation of the remains of some 18,000 missing war victims.

Susana Matejić, Representative of the Missing Persons Institute of Serbia.

Ms. Matejić (PhD) is Full Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Banja Luka. She is Deputy Chairman of the Serbian working group for negotiations on resolving the fate of missing persons in the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina as well as Head of the forensic experts' team for investigation of the fate of missing persons in the conflict in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Ms.

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

³ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Matejić has authored a number of academic papers, including in the field of forensic investigation, legal-economic aspects of clarifying the fate of missing persons, and the role of importance of forensic teams in clarifying the fate of missing persons through governmental and nongovernmental institutions.

Hamza Kazazi, relative of seven missing persons, victims of the communist regime.

Mr. Hamza Kazazi was born in Shkodra in 1941. His father, Jup Kazazi was awarded by the President of the Republic of Albania the high "Golden Eagle Decoration". Mr. Kazazi's father did not surrender and killed himself on 17/09/1946 following the Postriba Uprising. He and his two brothers still do not have a grave. There are seven missing persons from Mr. Kazazi family. Since 1991 Mr. Kazazi lives in Turin, Italy

15:50 – 16:00 Discussion

15 December

Zoom Details

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/92765971688>

Meeting ID: **927 6597 1688**

Passcode: **15122021**

9:00 – 9:15 Registration

9:15 - 10:00 Keynote Speech: *Disappearance, a catastrophe for identity and language.*

Based on sociological research developed first in Argentina and Uruguay and then in other countries of Latin America and Europe, the lecture seeks to build a universal definition of disappearance, understood as a phenomenon that breaks the possibility of identity and language.

Gabriel Gatti, Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Basque Country, Spain

Mr. Gatti coordinates the research program Mundo(s) de Víctimas, where he has been the Principal Investigator of Mundo(s) de víctimas and Desapariciones projects. He is the Editor-in-chief of Papeles del CEIC, International Journal on Collective Identity Research, and he was the Director of the doctoral program in Models and Areas of Social Science Research. He is author of a number of books, including *Surviving forced disappearance in Argentina and Uruguay* (Palgrave Macmillan, New York), *Identidades desaparecidas* (Prometeo, Buenos Aires, 2011), *El detenido-desaparecido. Narrativas posibles para una catástrofe de la identidad* (Trilce, Montevideo, 2008; Uruguay's Social Science National Award, 2010).

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 12:00 Panel IV: *Enforced Disappearances and their Impact on Individuals and the Society*

Enforced disappearances generate multiple and interrelated effects over individual victim, his or her relatives, the communities in which they belong, and ultimately the society as a whole. Be that individually or collectively, those effects range from antagonism and distrust of state authorities to group polarization at both political and socio-cultural level, demand for exercising a right to truth, and may go as far as to put into question the identity foundations of the individual and the society, and to break the conventional relations between social reality and the language used to express feelings of sorrow and void. The panel will analyze some of those effects. It will also discuss how tireless efforts to clarify the fate of the disappeared vis-à-vis a hesitant State engagement affect the life of the relatives of the missing and the society as a whole. Moreover, it will provide examples of how transitional justice processes leads to civic engagement to reveal the remains of disappeared persons and to trigger collective public actions to find them and to hold victimizers accountable. And finally, in a forward-looking perspective, the panel will discuss new disappearances in post-dictatorial regimes, focusing on their relations with older forms, on what they have in common and what they differ, and how those new forms sometimes help display about older forms.

Moderator: **Kristina Voko**, Executive Director of BIRN Albania

Jonila Godole, Executive Director of the Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture, Albania.

Ms. Godole is Lecturer at the Department of Journalism and Communication of University of Tirana. She holds a PhD in journalism culture in the post-communist Albania at the University of Tirana. She was one of the first journalists after 1990, especially well-known for her interviews of high-level politicians and political articles. Her research interests include comparative media systems, journalism education in transitional countries, political communication, media and memory studies etc. Since 2014 she is the director of the Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture, whose focus, among others, is raising the awareness of the youth on the country's communist past

Anja Mihr, DAAD long term Associate Professor (LZD) at the OSCE Academy.

Ms. Mihr is political scientist and human rights researcher. She is an internationally known academic who has taught in various universities in Germany, the United States, Italy, China and the Netherlands. Her main work focuses on human rights, governance and transitional justice, looking at the interlinkage between institutions, organizations and the way human rights realization can be leveraged. In her book on 'Regime Consolidation and Transitional Justice', she develops a theory to explain the impact of Transitional Justice measures in the context of political regime consolidations.

Teuta Starova, Lecturer of Sociology at the University of Tirana

Ms. Starova's scientific activity is focused on the field of sociological studies and research. She has participated in national and international scientific conferences, has worked in national and international scientific research teams, and co-authored reports and expertise for organizations such as UNDP, Council of Europe, World Bank, etc. She has also been engaged in the field of Albanian translation of books, textbooks for students of Sociology and Political Science. She worked as a diplomat at the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in the United Kingdom.

Merita Poni, Lecturer at the University in the Department of Sociology of Tirana

Ms. Poni teaches and conducts research in the field of gender sociology, education, crime, terrorism and violent extremism, transitional justice and research methods. She has published articles in gender journals on gender, education, crime, culture, and research methods. He currently directs the Professional Master of Criminology (Administration of Social Institutions in the Justice System) and student internships in law enforcement and education institutions. She has long experience in defending human rights as an activist and researcher.

Jovan Plaku, relative of a person victim of the communist regime.

Mr. Plaku – whose father was sentenced to death in a closed-door trial two years after he was arrested in 1975 - managed to find the remains of 13 people in a forest, after tirelessly searching for documentary evidence and digging the mountains above Tirana.

Maria Martinez, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology III (Social Tendencies) at the UNED, Spain

Ms. Martinez is currently associate professor at the Department of Sociology III (Social Tendencies) at the UNED (Open University), in Madrid (Spain). She is also member of the Collective Identity Research Center of the University of the Basque Country and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara (USA). In the last decade, she has been linked to research projects (funded by the Spanish research agency) on victims and disappearances. In the last research, she focused on new forms of disappearance, more precisely she undertook an empirical research on migrant disappearances and victims of sex trafficking. She also works on feminisms, vulnerability and (collective) agency, having recently published the book *Identidades en proceso. Una propuesta a partir del análisis de las movilizaciones feministas contemporáneas* (CIS, 2019).

12:00 – 12:20 Discussion

12:20 – 13:00 Paper Presentation

Elisenda Calvet Martínez : *“Searching for the disappeared children: analysis of the truth-seeking initiatives developed in Latin America”*

Mina Rauschenbach, Lisa Ott, Alejandro Jimenez, Claudia Josi, Bronwen Webster: *"Exploring the value of social recognition of enforced disappearance for the relatives of the disappeared: a multi-disciplinary analysis of the experiences and perceptions of relatives, activists and practitioners in Colombia and El Salvador"*

13:00 – 13:20 Discussion 13.20 – 13:30 Closing Remarks

Bernard Dosti, Vice Rector of University of Tirana

Clarisse Pasztory, Deputy Head of PiA

13.30 – 14:30 Lunch