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Conference Programme & Abstract Book

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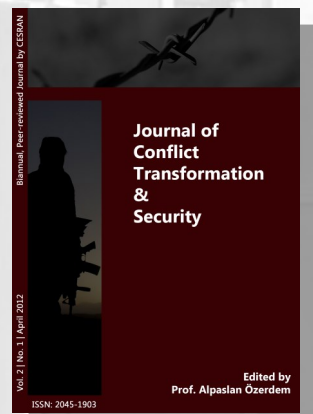
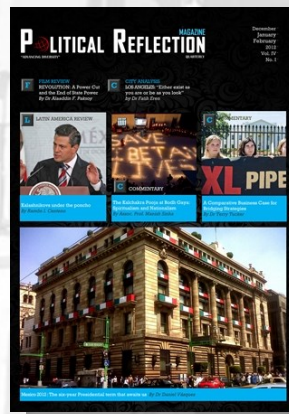
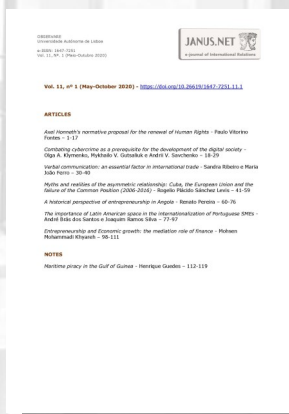
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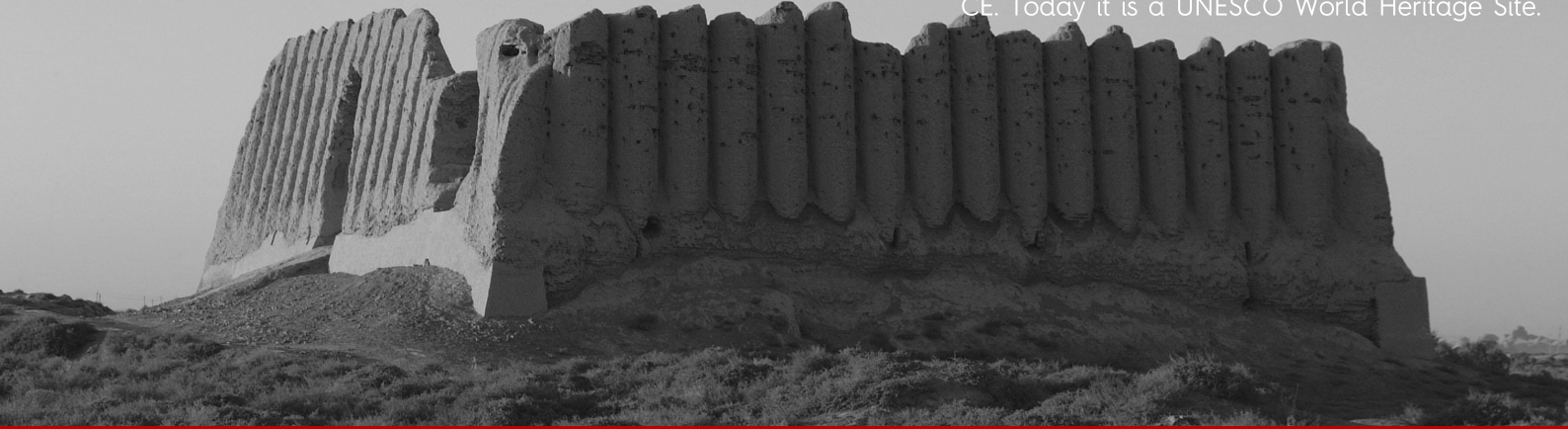
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<p>13:15 - 14:45</p>	<p>Panel 07 Central Asian States in Eurasian Politics</p> <p>Chair: Andrew K P Leung</p> <p>Ajay Pratap Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University Central Asian States and China's Silk Road Diplomacy</p> <p>Angelo Francesco Carlucci, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University Sufi Schools and Turkish soft Power in Central Asia</p> <p>Christopher Whitsel, North Dakota State University Ethical Dilemmas in Fieldwork in Central Asia</p> <p>Najiba Mustafayeva, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy Explosive Inheritance of Aggression: Armenia's Anti-Mine Obligations Under International Law</p> <p>Orkhan Valiyev, Western Caspian University The Second Karabakh War: Victory of Multicultural Azerbaijani Nationalism?</p> <p>Ozhet Shegirbayev, RANEP Central Asian Transition</p> <p>Smrutirekha Sahu, Jawaharlal Nehru University Free Media and Democracy: A Case Study of Kyrgyzstan</p>	<p>JOIN NOW </p> <p></p>
<p>15:00 - 16:30</p>	<p>Panel 08 Rethinking Great Power Politics After Russia-Ukraine War</p> <p>Chair: Christopher Whitsel</p> <p>Andrew K P Leung, Andrew Leung International Consultants & Investments How the Ukrainian Crisis Redefines Eurasian Geopolitics in a Changed World</p> <p>Marco Manuel Marsili Wick, CIEP-IUL, CEI-IUL, CINAMIL, CIDIUM, CESRAN International The Russia-Ukraine Conflict Beyond the Mainstream Narrative</p> <p>Marek Štoudek, Charles University Geopolitical Considerations of New European Spaceports</p> <p>Mohammad Ali Zafar, National Defence University Post-Ukrainian World Order: Russian geopolitics, Neo-Eurasianism and the Emerging World Order</p>	<p>JOIN NOW </p> <p></p>
<p>15:00 - 16:30</p>	<p>Panel 09 Positioning Rising Powers into the Great Power Politics: Turkey</p> <p>Chair: Rahman Dağ</p> <p>Adrian Pogacian, Cesran International and ReThinking Europe Did Russia lose influence in Black Sea Region? Great Powers Competition in Regional Security Complex</p> <p>Ana Belén Perianes, The University Institute General Gutiérrez Mellado-UNED The Turkish Agenda for Connectivity in Central Asia: Presence, Influence and Geopolitical Interests</p> <p>Ferhat Cagri Aras, Karadeniz Technical University Different Dimensions of CAATSA Sanctions: The Case of Turkey and India</p> <p>Kerim Sert, Middle East Technical University Eurasia and the Energy Security of European Union</p>	<p>JOIN NOW </p> <p></p>

Ancient Merv, in modern-day Turkmenistan, is one of the most important cities along the Silk Roads of Central Asia. Founded around the 6th century BCE, it flourished as an administrative, trading, military & religious centre – becoming perhaps the third largest city in the world in the 10th century CE. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Panel 08 | Parallel Session

Rethinking Great Power Politics After Russia-Ukraine War

SATURDAY // 16 July 2022 // 15:00–16:30 // (York, BST)

Authors Name: Prof. Andrew K P Leung, SBS, FRSA

Affiliation: Andrew Leung International Consultants & Investments

Email: andrewkpleung@gmail.com

Title: How the Ukrainian Crisis redefines Eurasian geopolitics in a changed world

Abstract: As the Ukrainian War unfolds, changing fortunes of President Putin’s Russia, a super-sized continental nuclear power, are upending Eurasian and global geopolitics. Putin’s hope for a quick victory is now forlorn, shifting to a strategy of prolonged attrition. Led by the United States, the West is doubling down on supplying higher-grade weaponry and military intelligence to the Ukrainians. Emboldened by Russia’s apparent weakness, America is corralling Western allies in a sweeping campaign to sanction, isolate and ostracize Russia, aiming to weaken, if not topple, Putin. This outcome is expected to enable the United States to better deal with China, its only peer adversary. There is palpable glee that Putin’s adventurism has spectacularly backfired. The Ukrainians have become much more united as a pro-West nation, applying to join the European Union. Europe is rallying behind the United States to oppose Russia. NATO unity is strengthening, with Finland and Sweden expecting to join. Meanwhile, faced with risks of robust sanctions and worldwide disapprobation, China has been put on the back foot, neither willing nor able to sever strong ties with Russia. Both countries have been pushed together by complementary economic and geopolitical interests as America’s primary common enemies. However, America’s crusade to segregate the world into opposing camps of autocracy and democracy does not appear to work. For all the talk of decoupling, U.S.-China trade swelled more than 20% in 2021. Foreign direct investment inflows to China rose by a third to an all-time high. 123 countries, including those in the European Union, have China as the largest trading partner, versus 57 for the United States. China has been entrenched at the heart of the global supply and value chain. Owing to huge differentials in costs and market potential, some US businesses prefer offshoring to embracing anti-China sanctions. Various US allies are hedging their bets, unwilling to commit to a binary choice against China. Despite a façade of solidarity, some European countries, Germany included, are heavily dependent on Russian energy. Diversification is unlikely to yield quick results, owing to cost and transportation considerations. Putin’s prolonged attrition strategy is implicating the rest of Europe. Energy shortage and inflation fears are wrecking European economies and societies, not to mention millions of Ukrainian refugees. Broken supply chains have stoked US inflation fears, forcing the Fed to raise rates more aggressively. This would be bad for America’s economy and mid-term elections. Ukraine has no qualms with China, its largest trading partner for agricultural and mineral products. When the war is eventually over, both a weakened Russia and a devastated Ukraine, along with the rest of Europe, are likely to welcome closer economic ties with China, including a renewed and possibly reformed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI bypasses US naval

choke points including the Malacca Strait, while Russia's agriculture is benefiting from warmer climates. BRI connectivity is also welcomed by commodity-rich but land-locked Central Asian countries. All told, following a traumatic interlude with the Ukraine War, Eurasian geopolitics are unlikely to remain the same again.

Keywords: Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, US, China, Geopolitics

Authors Name: Dr. Marco Manuel Marsili Wick

Affiliation: CIEP-IUL, CEI-IUL, CINAMIL, CIDIUM, CESRAN

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Title: The Russia-Ukraine Conflict Beyond the Mainstream Narrative

Abstract: The Russia-Ukraine conflict erupted in February 2022 after the Kremlin recognized the independence of the breakaway popular republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. In the aftermath of the recognition of the sovereignty of these entities, the Russian armed forces invaded Ukraine under the justification of the demilitarization and denazification of the neighbouring country, as well as to bring to trial those who perpetrated numerous bloody crimes against civilians in the Donbass, including against Russian citizens. Soon after, the international community and the mainstream media began a worldwide campaign against the Russian military action, sympathizing with the government of Kiev.

Although Russia is well-known for its information capabilities—whether propaganda, disinformation, or counter-information—the Kremlin appears to have overestimated its ability to wage effective information operations or underestimated the impact of Western brainwashing on public opinion. In addition, the Ukrainian leadership has effectively managed to counter the grounds on which the Russian government has supported its "special military operation." Ukrainian President Zelensky gained the trust, sympathy, and solidarity of Western leaders, the media, and public opinion, presenting his country as the victim of an unjustified aggression. On the other hand, Russian President Putin, excluded from the public debate due to the European Union ban on Russian media, was perceived by the same audience as a gangster. Is this the whole truth, or is there something more beyond the mainstream narrative? This paper aims to offer a factual analysis and a different perspective from the mainstream narrative supported and spread by Western governments and biased media outlets.

Keywords: Russia, Ukraine, Information, Disinformation, Propaganda

Authors Name: Marek Štoudek

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Title: Geopolitical Considerations of New European Spaceports

Abstract: In today's world, outer space is a relevant topic for discussion across all scientific disciplines, and political science is no exception. In the case of the geopolitics of space, it is a specific domain dealing with the geographical, physical, diplomatic, military, socio-economic, and environmental implications of space activities. From the founder of the field, Everett Dolman, to contemporary authors such as Bledwyn E. Bowen, John J. Klein and Eligar Sadeh, we have encountered the issue of the geographic position of spaceports in respect of their geopolitical effectiveness. The location of an individual spaceport should be chosen by considering a set of rules that help, for example, to save fuel, to place space objects in their intended orbit, or to ensure the safety of the space mission and people on Earth. Typically, this involves placing spaceports close to the equator to allow for rocket launches in an easterly direction to take advantage of the Earth's rotation to gain the necessary velocity to overcome the Earth's gravitational pull. The advantage of areas with higher altitudes or suitable meteorological conditions can also be mentioned, but this list needs to be enriched with some political considerations. The site of spaceports also needs to be examined regarding geographical accessibility, the presence of airspace of neighbouring states, and the



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