

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "THE POWER OF THE LOCAL"

University of Rijeka, 22nd September 2025 (+ online)

DRAFT PROGRAMME (28 August 2025)

09:30 – 10:00 Arrival of the participants

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks

Rector of the University of Rijeka a.i. (or representative)

Ambassador of Norway to Croatia (or representative)

Marko Kovačić, University of Rijeka, Croatia

10:15 – 11:00 **Keynote address**

When the war ends: Rebuilding lives, rebuilding communities

Dinka Čorkalo Biruški, University of Zagreb, Croatia

11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 1: Local resistance to identity-based violence in former Yugoslavia**

Moderator: Knut Vesterdal, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Faris Kočan, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

The warless village of Baljvine, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dino Šakanović, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Non-nationalist commemoration practices in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Anđela Đorđević and Rok Zupančič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Living (More or Less) Together in a Divided Land: Albanians and Serbs in Kamenicë/Kamenica, Kosovo

Valentina Otmačić, University of Rijeka, Croatia

Gorski kotar, Croatia: where the only intolerance is towards the war

Q&A

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 **Panel 2: Local resistance to identity-based violence in the global context**

Moderator: Marko Kovačić, University of Rijeka, Croatia

Isabela dos Santos, University of Toronto, Canada
The case of Wahat al Salam - Neve Shalom, Palestine/Israel

Ahmadullah Archival, University of Connecticut, USA
Women's nonviolent struggle in Balochistan, Pakistan

Loizos Kapsalis, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research,
Nicosia, Cyprus
Overcoming divisions through history education in Cyprus

Seán Byers, Trademark Belfast, Northern Ireland
Labour, class and the political economy of peace in Northern Ireland

Q&A

15:00 – 15:45 **Discussion: Implications for academia, policy and activism**

Group discussions

Feedback from groups

15:45 – 16:00 Closing remarks & Farewell

Valentina Otmačić, University of Rijeka, Croatia