



Call for Papers

Jan Masaryk Centre of International Studies
Faculty of International Relations
University of Economics, Prague

Is pleased to invite you to the

20th International Conference of Young Scholars Prague

“The Shifting Balances of International Relations?”

Which will be held on **26 - 27 May 2016** at the **University of Economics, Prague**

Since its early beginnings in the 1990s, the International Conference of Young Scholars has been centered around broader topics with a potential of bringing together, rather than sorting by issue, the young members of the international relations community from a disparate range of research areas. This approach will be maintained throughout its 20th edition which will focus on the shifting balances of international relations.

States and empires have arisen and dissolved in the more than 100 years that have passed since Otto von Bismarck coined the term “balance of power” to aptly describe the workings of international politics. Yet the idea of balances, holding or shifting, seems to have become a staple metaphor in the field of international relations. In fact, the dynamicity of the current world renders its power balance increasingly prone to defiance or change, which makes it ever more challenging for academia to pinpoint the exact state of affairs, local and global, at any given time.

Even more interestingly, new stimuli for the concept of balance in international relations (in a broader, non-power-related sense) emerge not only from within but also from outside the ambit of those that could be labeled as standard political actors. Partial balances – be they economic, social, environmental or other – are becoming more and more relevant to the study of international relations as non-states, NGOs, media and even unstructured groupings or individuals gain stronger ground (both figuratively and, at times, literally) and confront the status quo of the geographically, politically and discursively fragmented reality of international relations.

Finally, the concept of balance can be, very fruitfully, reinterpreted to analyze not the general mechanics of international relations, but rather those internal to the variety of actors they comprise. Here, as “out in the open”, patterns and struggles emerge, which lead to a deeper understanding of the endeavors and costs at which the apparent balance of any given actor comes.

In short, mobilizing the concept of balance as a central source of inspiration, the 2016 International Conference of Young Scholars will explore the issue of stability and change of international relations. By allowing room for inspired, thematically and methodologically diverse contributions, it hopes to paint a more complex and in-depth picture of the various shifts of balance(s) currently facing international relations, as seen by young scholars.

International Conference of Young Scholars Prague

Jan Masaryk Centre of International Studies, Faculty of International Relations
University of Economics, Prague



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How to participate

1. By **4 March 2016**, propose a paper at <http://icys.vse.cz>.
2. By **11 March 2016**, applicants will receive a notification of acceptance and further information.
3. By **8 April 2016**, register to attend at <http://icys.vse.cz>.
4. By **22 April 2016**, participants will receive the final Academic program.
5. By **13 May 2016**, submit a paper (in case you intend to publish it in the RMSJM journal – see below) OR a presentation (in case you do not want to publish your paper in the RMSJM).

Conference fees

No conference fees will be charged.

Academic program

- On **26 May 2016** – registration; networking: workshops, excursion, film screening and discussion
- On **27 May 2016** – registration; keynote speech by **Mr. Petr Drulák**, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; panels; glass of wine

Outputs of the conference

All participants of the conference will have the opportunity to publish their papers in a new peer-reviewed journal entitled **Jan Masaryk Review of International Studies (RMSJM)**, published by the Jan Masaryk Centre of International Studies, Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics, Prague, online at <http://smsjm.vse.cz/english/rmsjm/>.

Contact and more information

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