



Call for Papers

**17<sup>th</sup> Central and Eastern European Forum for Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists**

25 and 26 September 2025, Split, Croatia

Faculty of Law, University of Split

**Law and State in Contemporary Times**

In 2025, the Central and Eastern European Forum for Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists will return to Croatia after 11 years. It will take place on **25 and 26 September 2025** at the **Faculty of Law, University of Split** (<https://www.pravst.unist.hr/en/>). The CEE Forum is a platform for young legal, political and social theorists who come from Central and Eastern Europe, study or work there or have a research interest in this region. Regional boundaries are broadly defined. The target audience of the conference is young researchers, especially PhD students and postdocs, but there is no specific age limit for participation. The CEE Forum takes an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, creating opportunities for collaboration between legal theorists, philosophers, political scientists, sociologists and social theorists.

The conference will consist of two main sections and a third open section:

(1) Law: its fundamental and related concepts. The first section focuses on law: its fundamental and related concepts. Possible contributions for this section include, but are not limited to, questions such as: What are the defining features of law? That is, what features must, or should something have in order to be considered “law”? How do the different theories of law (e.g. positivism or naturalism) deal with the concept of law? What are the most important features of law? What is the appropriate methodological approach to law? Contributions to this section that deal with fundamental concepts of law (such as norm, right, obligation or duty, etc.) and related concepts are also welcome. Possible contributions may explore the issues between law and politics (e.g. questions of legitimacy or popular will), law and philosophy

(e.g. different conceptions of justice) and law and sociology (e.g. the question of power or legal culture).

(2) The state in contemporary times. The second section is devoted to the state in contemporary times, in particular its features and functions. Possible contributions for this section include the following: What is the primary role of the state? What are (or should be) the main functions of contemporary states? How has the development of international and supranational organisations influenced states and theoretical approaches to the study of states? What is the relationship between law and the state? What is the relationship between the state, public law and private law in the context of recent legal and political developments? How has technology changed and how might continue to influence the state? What are the challenges to democratic participation and representation in contemporary states? As in the first section, contributions from other disciplines related to the state are welcome.

(3) Open section. To meet the diverse interests of the Forum participants from different disciplines, the third section will be open to all interesting topics from the broad field of legal, political and social theory.

### **Further information**

The conference language is English. If you wish to participate, please send us an **abstract of up to 500 words by 10 June 2025**, to our conference email address: [ceeforum2025@pravst.hr](mailto:ceeforum2025@pravst.hr). Please indicate in which session you would like to present. We will notify you of acceptance of submissions by 20 June 2025. After acceptance, we will wait for payment of the participation fee until 10 July 2025.

The participation fee is 100 EUR and includes conference materials, coffee and snacks during the breaks, lunch and conference dinner. We kindly ask participants to arrange and pay for their travel own accommodation. We will advise on lodging and directions as well as communicate the payment instructions to accepted participants via email.

After the conference, all participants will be invited to submit their papers in order to be published in the volume of the Central and Eastern European Forum for Legal, Political, and Social Theory Yearbook.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via our conference email address: [ceeforum2025@pravst.hr](mailto:ceeforum2025@pravst.hr).