



Hrvatsko politološko društvo
Croatian Political Studies Association

Croatian Political Science Association (CPSA)
on the 60th anniversary of its foundation

Invites you to its annual conference

Croatian Political Science Talks

Faculty of Political Science, Lepušićeva 6, Zagreb, **5 - 6 November 2026**

**BETWEEN CHAOS AND A NEW ORDER:
POLITICS IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY**

This year, the Croatian Political Science Association (CPSA) marks the sixtieth anniversary of its establishment. Throughout six decades of its existence, the Association has served as one of the principal institutions for the development of political science in Croatia, bringing together generations of political scientists and scholars from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines. The history of the Croatian Political Science Association is inseparably linked with the major political, social, and international transformations that have shaped the contemporary era—from Cold War divisions and the processes of democratization, through the establishment of the independent Croatian state and European integration, to globalization, digital transformation, and the emergence of new forms of political power.

Sixty years after its founding, the Association finds itself operating in a period of profound political uncertainty. The world that, following the end of the Cold War, appeared to many as an expanding space of liberal democracy, international cooperation, and global interconnectedness is today increasingly characterized by conflict, fragmentation, and a crisis of confidence in existing institutions. The political, social, and international frameworks that for decades provided a foundation of relative stability are increasingly being challenged, while new forms of political order and governance have yet to take clear shape.

Contemporary international relations are marked by the return of major geopolitical rivalries and the open contestation of the existing rules of the international order. Wars and armed conflicts have once again become central issues in world politics, while institutions established to preserve international cooperation face serious challenges. Shifts in relations among the major powers, the weakening of multilateralism, and intensifying competition for political, economic, and technological influence have created circumstances in which the future direction of global politics has become increasingly difficult to predict.

At the same time, contemporary uncertainty is not merely the result of international conflicts. Democratic political systems are confronted with internal pressures stemming from declining public trust in institutions, growing political polarization, changing patterns of political participation, and the crisis of traditional forms of political representation. Political parties and established models of representation are increasingly challenged by new social movements, populist mobilization, and transformations in political communication.

A particularly significant transformation of the political sphere has been driven by the rapid development of new technologies. Digital platforms, social media, and artificial intelligence are reshaping the ways in which citizens access information, participate in politics, and form political attitudes. At the same time, these developments raise new questions concerning the relationship between technology and power, democratic oversight, information manipulation, and the future of political decision-making.

Alongside political and technological transformations, the contemporary world is confronted with a range of interconnected social and economic challenges. Climate change, migration, energy insecurity, economic inequality, and shifts in the global economy are placing new pressures on states and political institutions. Problems that transcend the borders of individual political communities require new forms of governance and cooperation, while simultaneously reinforcing tendencies toward closure, fragmentation, and political competition.

This raises a fundamental question: **Are we living in a world entering an age of chaos?** Such an era should not be understood merely as the absence of order, but rather as a process of profound transformation in which established patterns of political action, institutions, and power relations are gradually losing their stability, while **new forms of political order have yet to fully emerge.** Chaos may therefore be understood not only as a period of heightened uncertainty and crisis, but also as a historical moment in which new political ideas, actors, and opportunities arise that may shape the future international order.

At such a historical juncture, political science bears a particular responsibility. Its task is not merely to describe crises but to understand their causes, analyse transformations in political power, and explore the possibilities for creating new forms of legitimacy, stability, and democratic governance. The central questions of our political moment concern the capacity of states and societies to respond to multiple crises, the future of democracy, transformations of the international order, and the prospects for developing new political solutions.

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary, the Croatian Political Science Association invites political scientists, as well as scholars from related social science and humanities disciplines, to participate in a critical, interdisciplinary, and open discussion on the political processes shaping the contemporary world.

We welcome contributions from all fields of political science and related disciplines, including Croatian politics, comparative politics, European studies, international relations, public policy, political and social theory, political history and the history of political thought, security studies, political communication, as well as neighbouring disciplines such as law, sociology, economics, history, philosophy, and media studies.

In addition to the conference's main theme, we particularly encourage contributions addressing the following topics:

- Transformations of the international order, geopolitical realignments, and new global power relations;
- Wars, security challenges, transformations of contemporary conflicts, and issues of peace;
- The crisis of democratic institutions, declining public trust, and the future of democratic governance;
- Political polarization, populism, extremism, and new forms of political mobilization;
- The role of political parties and electoral systems in an era of changing societal expectations;
- The transformation of the public sphere, social media, artificial intelligence, and political communication;
- The future of the state, public policy, and governance under conditions of multiple crises;
- Climate change, migration, and other global challenges as political issues.

Paper and Panel Proposals:

We are interested in **receiving both paper and/or panel proposals**. **Deadline for submissions is September 1st, 2026.** **Deadline for submissions is September 1st 2026.** Proposals can be sent in Croatian or English language. Participants who are willing to present either in Croatian or in English are kindly requested to submit their proposal in **both languages**, as this provides greater flexibility in the organisation of conference panels.

The Croatian Political Science Dialogues also provide an opportunity for CPSA sections or individuals to organise **roundtables, thematic panels, and academic or professional lectures** on topics of their own interest. Those wishing to propose such special sessions are kindly asked to submit their proposals by **September 1st, 2026**, to **hpd@politologija.hr**, enabling the Organising Committee to prepare the conference programme in a timely manner.

We welcome applications from graduate students, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and research institute staff, and practicionares from a variety of disciplines, including political science, law, international relations, public policy, economics, etc.

Paper proposals should include the proposal (title of the paper, abstract up to 250 words, and 4-5 keywords) and a short bio of author(s).

Panel proposal should be submitted by a prospective panel chair, and must include a panel title, a short description of the panel (up to 100 words) and three or four paper proposals which should be presented. Panel proposal should be submitted in a single form. Please note that no author should be listed on more than one paper within the same panel.

If your proposal is accepted, we kindly request that you submit a **draft paper** by **20 October 2026**. The paper should adhere to the typical length of a journal article and will be circulated among the panel participants.

Paper proposals should be submitted by scanning the following QR code:



Panel proposals should be submitted by scanning the following QR code:



All applicants will be notified of the status of their submissions by September 20th 2026.

Conference fee is €50 (EUR). For CPSA members and doctoral students' participation is free of charge.

Anyone who wishes to pay the membership fee (20 EUR) can do so by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your valuable contribution!



The membership fee is valid for one year. By paying the membership fee, you enable a range of activities that CPSA will organize on its 60th anniversary.

If you have not been a member before, please follow the [link](#) and complete the questionnaire so that we can add you to all our contact lists.

Important Information

Venue

Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb
Lepušićeva 6, Zagreb, Croatia

Conference dates

5–6 November 2026

Deadline for abstract submission

1 September 2026

Notification of acceptance

20 September 2026

Contact

hpd@politologija.hr

Organising Committee

- **Dana Luša**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb – President of the Croatian Political Science Association and Chair of the Organising Committee
- **Goran Čular**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb
- **Anka Kekez Koštro**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb – Vice-President of the Croatian Political Science Association
- **Ivan Miković**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb – Vice-President of the Croatian Political Science Association
- **Matej Mikašinović-Komšo**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb – Secretary of the Croatian Political Science Association
- **Iztok Prezelj**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Milan Krstić**, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- **Vladimir Ajzenhamer**, Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- **Mirza Smajić**, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Nikoleta Đukanović**, University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro
- **Besfort Rrecaj**, Faculty of Law, University of Prishtina, Kosovo
- **Goran Ilik**, St. Cyril and Methodius University / St. Kliment Ohridski, North Macedonia