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CEE FORUM

**18TH CEE FORUM OF YOUNG
LEGAL, POLITICAL
AND SOCIAL THEORISTS**

**RECONSTRUCTING
JUSTICE
IN A CHANGING
WORLD**

**KATOWICE, POLAND
3-4 SEPTEMBER 2026**



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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

18th CEE Forum of Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists

3–4 September 2026

University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland

Legal, political, and social orders around the globe are bending under the weight of multiple overlapping conflicts: geopolitical wars, democratic backsliding, technological disruption, ecological breakdown, economic instability, and deep cultural polarization. These transformations affect institutions and reshape the normative foundations of justice, legitimacy, rights, and responsibility.

Justice appears today as a fractured and contested concept, requiring reinterpretation and deconstruction in light of the changing circumstances of the world.

The 18th Central and Eastern European Forum of Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists invites participants to reflect on what it means to reconstruct justice in a world undergoing rapid structural change.

Central and Eastern Europe occupies a unique position in global debates on justice. The region carries layered experiences of imperialism, socialism, democratic transition, European integration, constitutional transformation, and contemporary political contestation. Questions of legal culture, constitutional identity, peripherality, and sovereignty have shaped theoretical reflection in distinctive ways.

Today, the region again stands at a crossroads: facing democratic fatigue, geopolitical tensions, and renewed debates on the rule of law. Can the CEE experience contribute theoretical insights into reconstructing justice under instability?

POSSIBLE THEMATIC STREAMS

We welcome papers engaging with (but not limited to) the following areas:

1. Justice in Times of Crisis

- Justice and emergency powers
- War, occupation, and transitional justice
- Economic crises and distributive justice
- Climate justice and intergenerational responsibility

2. Justice and Technological Transformation

- Algorithmic decision-making and procedural fairness
- AI, autonomy, and accountability
- Digital surveillance and the right to privacy
- Platform governance and new forms of power

3. Justice, Identity and Pluralism

- Constitutional identity and supranational integration
- Minority rights and multicultural justice
- Migration and border justice

4. Theoretical Reconstructions of Justice

- Revisiting classical theories of justice
- Critical, feminist, postcolonial and decolonial approaches
- Law, morality and political obligation

5. Emotional and Cognitive Dimensions of Justice

- The role of emotions in legal and political judgment
- Moral psychology and normativity
- Trust, resentment, solidarity and legitimacy

We also welcome contributions that broadly engage with the spirit of the Forum, even if they do not fit neatly into the above categories.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The conference is aimed at:

- advanced MA students
- PhD candidates
- early-career researchers
- young post-docs and assistant professors

We warmly encourage applications from scholars worldwide, not only from Central and Eastern Europe.

The conference language is English.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit:

- an abstract of 300–400 words, clearly outlining the research question, theoretical framework, and main argument;
- your personal data and institutional affiliation.

Submissions should be sent to: <https://forms.office.com/e/XnQVzRLbSs>

Deadline for abstracts: 30 April 2026

Notification of acceptance: 15 May 2026



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The participation fee (100 euro) will cover:

- accomodation
- conference materials
- coffee breaks
- lunches
- conference dinner

Participants are kindly asked to arrange travel individually. Detailed practical information will be sent to accepted participants.

Following the conference, selected participants will be invited to submit full papers for publication in the Central and Eastern European Forum for Legal, Political and Social Theory Yearbook.

ABOUT THE FORUM

The Central and Eastern European Forum of Young Legal, Political, and Social Theorists is an annual academic event that brings together emerging scholars working in legal theory, political philosophy, and social theory. It aims to foster rigorous debate, intellectual exchange, and long-term academic cooperation across the region and beyond.

