



Search...

Menu

European Conference on Politics and Gender, University of Ljubljana, 6 – 8 July 2022

About

[Academic Programme](#)

[Schedule](#)

[My Itinerary](#)

[Programme Highlights](#)

[Organising Committee](#)

[Speakers](#)

Guides

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

# Anti-gender mobilization in Europe and beyond

[Democracy](#) [Gender](#) [Populism](#) [Campaign](#) [Political Activism](#)

Code:

P005

Chair(s)

**[Leah McCabe](#)**

University of Edinburgh

Panel Discussant(s)

**[Dorota Szelewa](#)**

University College Dublin

Section

**[Gender and Social Policy Reforms](#)**

Date, Time and Location

Building: Faculty of Social Science, Floor: First Floor, Room: FDV-20

Thursday 11:00 - 12:30 CEST (07/07/2022)

# Abstract

Anti-gender mobilization in Europe and beyond

Title	Details
Radical Right, Anti-Gender Campaigns, and Policy: the cases of League and Fratelli d'Italia in Italy	<a href="#">View Paper</a> <a href="#">Details</a>
The influence of anti-gender mobilizations on the family policies in modern-day Serbia and Croatia	<a href="#">View Paper</a> <a href="#">Details</a>
The many faces of care: A comparative analysis of anti-trafficking approaches to domestic work and sex work in the Philippines	<a href="#">View Paper</a> <a href="#">Details</a>
The Rise of the Anti-Gender Coalition at the European Union: Actors, Beliefs, and Coordination Networks	<a href="#">View Paper</a> <a href="#">Details</a>

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- [News](#)
- [Groups and Networks](#)

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- [Membership Rates](#)
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- [FAQs](#)

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- [Publishing](#)
- [Research Events](#)
- [Methods Training](#)



Search...

Menu

European Conference on Politics and Gender, University of Ljubljana, 6 – 8 July 2022

About

[Academic Programme](#)

[Schedule](#)

[My Itinerary](#)

[Programme Highlights](#)

[Organising Committee](#)

[Speakers](#)

Guides

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

# The influence of anti-gender mobilizations on the family policies in modern-day Serbia and Croatia

[Europe \(Central and Eastern\)](#) [Gender](#) [Social Policy](#) [Family](#) [Qualitative](#) [Comparative Perspective](#) [Narratives](#)

Presenter(s)

**[Tanja Vuckovic Juros](#)**

University of Zagreb

Author(s)

**[Jelena Ćeriman](#)**

Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

**[Tanja Vuckovic Juros](#)**

University of Zagreb

Panel

**[Anti-gender mobilization in Europe and beyond](#)**

## Abstract

Current debates on the crisis of the family and family values that are intensified by the growing anti-gender mobilizations of the last decade, imply a new wave of consolidation of patriarchal culture and thus strictly maintenance of the gap between, in this discourse, binary gender categories. In the context of post-Yugoslav societies in which the socialist and continental heritage of welfare state intertwines with the changes inspired by neoliberal ideas, (neo)conservative political actors easily take discussions about the crisis of the

family as an argument in their populist welfare program, while emphasizing the social norm of 'complete family' that implies heteronormativity as the only "normal" and "healthy", "optimal environment" for the growth and development of a child. These debates acquire a specific dimension in modern-day Croatia and Serbia, since their basis was formulated even during wars of Yugoslav secession when the traditional conceptualizations of gender were central to the discourses of the biological survival of the nation and (re)construction of collective national identities. We argue that actors representing arguments based on religious nationalism made an impact on family policies in Serbia and Croatia ever since, and that they still actively work to make certain non-normative and non-heterosexual families invisible or explicitly, discursively and legally, excluded from conceptualizations of caretakers, those who have a right to (access) children and a right to care for children as a parent.

The focus of this paper is on the actors shaping narratives on families in modern-day Serbia and Croatia, and on the discrepancies and tensions in normative frameworks these narratives suggest. Through narrative textual analysis of legislative framework relevant for the family policies in modern-day Croatia and Serbia, as well as of the available documents on relevant public debates organized by the governing structures in these two countries from 2000 onwards, we seek to provide answers to the following questions: Who are the actors who create narratives on families in modern-day Croatia and Serbia, and how do these different actors influence family policies? What are the main lines of conflict between them? What are the differences and similarities between Serbia and Croatia regarding the influence of anti-gender mobilizations on the family policies?

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- [Publishing](#)
- [Research Events](#)
- [Methods Training](#)

