

CALL FOR PAPERS

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL
TRANSITION IN KOSOVO**

The American University in Kosovo (AUK) and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) – AUK’s academic partner – are organizing an international conference on “Economic Development and Political Transition in Kosovo” on Friday 12 – Saturday 13 October 2012 at the AUK Campus in Pristina, Kosovo (URL: www.aukonline.org/blog/?cat=4).

The aim is to further develop an international research network of scholars working on the political economy of Kosovo’s development and to transcend the focus on post-conflict peace-building that has characterized the recent literature on Kosovo. Furthermore, the Conference aims to promote professional and scholarly cooperation between international academic circles, on the one hand, and Kosovar researchers and policy-makers, on the other.

Call for Papers:

We aim to attract contributions from scholars based at international and regional universities or affiliated with other research or policy institutions. 20 papers will be selected from a pool of open submissions based on peer review.

The Conference aims at including contributions from economists and political scientists interested in the institutional determinants of economic development and political change in Kosovo. Papers are solicited on (but will not be limited to) the topics listed below. While papers may adopt a comparative perspective, the core focus should be on Kosovo.

1. General topics - Kosovo’s political and economic development in comparative and regional perspective:

- Kosovo’s economic policy, how it affects development outcomes and how it is influenced by domestic constituencies and the donor/international community
- Economic development of post-independence Kosovo in regional/global political economy perspective
- Comparative growth and development experiences in the Yugoslav successor state
- Kosovo’s sovereignty dispute in political economy perspective
- Economic, political and material history of Kosovo and Yugoslavia
- Impact of euro-crisis on the monetary system in Kosovo

- Kosovo's integration in regional, international and European institutional structures (UN, EU, NATO, etc.) and its implications for economic and political change
- Forms of local resistance to economic and political reform in Kosovo

2. *Sectoral debates:*

- Regional trade integration in the Western Balkans; Kosovo's trade policy and CEFTA; Kosovo's accession to the WTO; trade disputes and emerging forms of economic nationalism
- Investment policy, industrial policy and industrial development in Kosovo; procurement and concessioning rules in Kosovo
- SME development and business environment in political economy perspective
- Mining and natural resources development in Kosovo and its impact on growth and the environment
- Energy-sector governance and carbon policy in a transition economy; regional integration through energy trade
- The political economy of privatization and infrastructure development
- Rural development, agricultural growth and agrarian change
- Environmental challenges to sustainable development
- Financial, monetary and banking system in Kosovo
- Parallel structures in northern Kosovo and their impact on economic development, rule of law and state-building
- Party and electoral politics in Kosovo in political economy perspective, including issues of party-funding
- The democratization/development nexus in Kosovo
- Aid and donor coordination in Kosovo
- Decentralization and institutional reform in Kosovo
- Labor relations and informal economy in Kosovo
- Migration and remittances and their impact on socio-economic development
- Issues of post-socialist transition in Kosovo
- The political economy of peace-building
- Health-care policy, education policy, welfare state and social policy in Kosovo

Publications:

We have secured expressions of interest from *South East European and Black Sea Studies* and the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* for the publication of a selection of the conference's papers as one or more thematic special issues. After the Conference, paper-presenters are given time to revise and resubmit their papers before the conference proceedings are passed on to the journals' editors for review. By participating in the Conference, paper-presenters agree to having their papers considered for publication in the above journals. Possibilities for a guest-editor position might also be explored.

Thanks to the generous financial support of USAID-BEEP, the papers will also be translated into Albanian and Serbian, in order to facilitate dissemination into local (non-English-speaking) academic and policy-making circles. Replies and commentaries from local scholars, researchers and policy practitioners will be actively sought during and after the Conference. All Albanian- and Serbian-language contributions will be collated in an edited volume to be published by RIT Press.

Important Dates:

6th August – Deadline for submission of extended abstracts (800 words)

11th August – Notification of acceptance

5th October – Deadline for submission of full papers

12th-13th October – Conference

28th October – Deadline for submission of revised papers

Submissions:

To submit abstracts and papers, or for further details about the Conference or the planned publications, please contact Luca J. Uberti (luberti@aukonline.org). The subject line of all emails should be “AUK Conference 2012”. Please also include a one-page resume or a short bio, clearly indicating contact details and institutional affiliation. Due to the large volume of applications, we regret we cannot notify unsuccessful applicants.

Funding:

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Balkan Trust for Democracy (German Marshall Fund) and USAID-BEEP, AUK will offer paper-presenters a grant to cover travel expenses to and from Pristina. Accommodation for two nights will be provided close to the AUK campus.

Guest-speakers:

Susan L. Woodward (Graduate Center, City University of New York) and Will Bartlett (London School of Economics and Political Science) will be guest-speakers at the conference.

Review Committee:

Michael Waschak, Visiting Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

Petrit Gashi, Assistant Professor, University of Prishtina

Besnik Bislimi, Lecturer, American University in Kosovo (AUK)

Luca J. Uberti, Research Fellow, Centre for Energy and Natural Resources, AUK

Gëzim Visoka, Dublin City University

William Wechsler, Lecturer and Vice-President for Academic Development, AUK

Jim Myers, Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies, RIT

Venera Demukaj, Lecturer, AUK

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