
Editors' Note

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Academic cooperation between Croatia and Indonesia takes place through institutional and individual cooperation of various universities, research institutions and scholars with the strong support of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Indonesia and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Croatia. A particularly active cooperation has been established between the following four universities: University of Zagreb, represented by the Faculty of Political Sciences, VERN' University, Lampung University and Warmadewa University.

In 2019, these four universities organized a joint Summer School "The Well-spring of Academic Spirit: Digital Data and Security" which took place in Indonesia from June 24 to July 2, at two locations: Bandar Lampung and Denpasar. The Summer School gathered a respectable number of lecturers, students and representatives of social and political life, which served as an indicator of a great interest for co-operation and mutual acquaintance. In addition to the Summer School, the hosts organized a rich cultural and academic program for members of the Croatian delegation who had the opportunity to hold lectures at several Indonesian universities, meet colleagues and students and sign several cooperation agreements. Five articles collected in this thematic section represent one of the most visible outcomes and scientific outputs of the School.

The four universities organizing the Summer School also signed cooperation agreements in which they emphasized their intentions for faculty and student exchange, to cooperate on joint academic activities including research projects, conferences and publications, to organize joint cultural programs, to exchange publications and other academic materials, as well as to find other forms of cooperation of mutual interest. Part of the intended purpose has already been realized through the organization of two summer schools, as well as through this publication, while more are still planned.

After a well-organized first Summer School held in Indonesia, with the great support of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Croatia and the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Indonesia, participants agreed upon continuation of academic cooperation, which is planned to serve as a platform for development of new ideas. Following on that and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second Summer School was hosted online in Croatia from 21 to 25 September 2020, with great interest and participation from all partner universities and the Croatian Defense Academy “Dr. Franjo Tuđman”.

In addition to the organization and implementation of summer schools, partners from Croatia and Indonesia agreed to cooperate in research and publication. The five papers published in this thematic section of the *Croatian Political Science Review (Politička misao)* represent the 2019 Summer Schools’ proceedings as well as one of the planned outputs of the university project “Digital Data and Security” lead by the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb. The second cycle of publications envisages an editorial book with papers from the second, 2020 Summer School organized in Croatia and is anticipated to be published by 2022 in the *Political Analyses* journal (*Političke analize*) housed at the Faculty of Political Sciences.

The papers in this thematic section are authored by professors from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb (Borna Zgurić; Lidija Kos-Stanišić and Viktorija Car; Marta Zorko, Hrvoje Jakopović and Ivana Cesarec), VERN’ University (Marija Slijepčević, Mirela Holy and Nikolina Borčić), and the Faculty of Social and Political Science, Warmadewa University (Made Yaya Sawitri and I Nyoman Wiratmaja).

Thematically, the papers cover a range of topics within the media and communication studies, international relations, geopolitics and comparative politics. Two papers (Zorko, Jakopović and Cesarec; Slijepčević, Holy and Borčić) compare the regions of South East Europe and South East Asia, by addressing media ecosystems and fact-checking movements, and the image of geolocations in virtual environment. Sawitri and Wiratmaja’s paper addresses Indonesia’s identity politics in the post-truth era, while Zgurić’s paper compares the democratic transitions in Indonesia and Tunisia. Finally, Kos-Stanišić and Car deal with the different use of soft power in digital public diplomacy towards the EU countries by comparing the cases of Brazil and India.

More specifically, Slijepčević, Holy and Borčić’s paper titled “Media Ecosystems and the Fact-Checking Movement: a Comparison of Trends in the EU and ASEAN” presents an overview of fact-checking trends in the European Union and South East Asia, by addressing issues of the status of fact-checkers in a comparative context, the dominant business models, their popularity on social media, dif-

ferent methodologies used for fact-checking as well as their sources of financing. Research shows a significant difference in trends in South East Europe and South East Asia while emphasizing fact-checking organization's contribution in the complex media ecosystems.

Next, the main objective of the paper "The Use of Soft Power in Digital Public Diplomacy: the Cases of Brasil and India in the EU", by Kos-Stanišić and Car, is to find out how the respective countries' embassies use digital diplomacy to communicate through their official websites and to identify which soft power resources they dominantly use. The paper shows Brazilian embassies using film, and Indian embassies using yoga as dominant soft power tools. However, the authors identify significant opportunities for improvements and better use of soft power resources, as well as digital public diplomacy potential in displaying the soft power of both countries within the EU.

Sawitri and Wiratmaja, with their paper titled "On the Brink of Post-Democracy: Indonesia's Identity Politics in the Post-Truth Era", present the case study of the two most influential elections in Indonesia, the 2017 Jakarta Provincial Election and the 2019 Presidential Election. In their paper, they explore how the Post-Truth phenomenon incorporates the issue of identity politics in Indonesia by employing secondary data analysis from the news and social media in order to explain how identity politics presented in the media generates social and political turbulence.

In his paper "A Comparison of Democratic Transformations of Tunisia and Indonesia: Lessons Learned" Zgurić uses the descriptive-empirical actor theories and cultural theories to explain the factors that influenced the democratic transformations in the two countries. He uses the comparative mixed method and isolates the independent variables as the necessary prerequisites for the democratic transformation in both cases.

Finally, Zorko, Jakopović and Cesarec authored the paper "The Image of Geolocations in a Virtual Environment: the Case Studies of Indonesia and Croatia on Google Trends", an interdisciplinary research which interconnects the cyclic process of space creation in a virtual environment. Combining media, communication, popular geopolitics, PR and big data, the authors develop a model for evaluating the importance of transaction data on image analysis of geolocations in tourism and the internet for different destinations, comparing trends in Indonesia and Croatia.