

IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

13 March 2014, 2pm
Room Fred Halliday – IBEI (1st Floor)

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Is Nationalism Inherently Violent?: Nation-States and Wars in the Balkans

This paper analyses the complex and contradictory relationships between nationalism and war. The author challenges the approaches that see nationalism as being inherently linked with violence and demonstrates that nationalist ideology by itself is rarely a main cause of war. The paper aims to show that the relationship between warfare and nationalism cannot be properly captured by the dominant naturalist and formativist perspectives. Instead the case is made that the emphasis should be given to the long term historical processes which make the link between war and nationalism possible: the cumulative bureaucratisation of coercion and the centrifugal ideologisation. Using the example of wars fought in the Balkans over the last two centuries the author argues that periods of protracted peace matter much more for the growth, expansion and popular reception of nationalism than the times of war. Rather than being a cause or consequence of war nationalist values and practices often entail the presence of long term peace.

Prof. Siniša Malešević

Siniša Malešević is Professor and Head/Chair of School of Sociology at the University College, Dublin. He is also a member of Royal Irish Academy. Previously he held research and teaching appointments at the Institute for International Relations (Zagreb), the Centre for the Study of Nationalism, CEU (Prague), the National University of Ireland, Galway, the London School of Economics and the Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna). His main research interests include comparative-historical and theoretical study of ethnicity and nationalism, ideology, war, violence as well as sociological theory. His recent books include *Nation-States and Nationalisms* (Polity 2013); *The Sociology of War and Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2010, reprinted in 2012; Croatian translation 2011), *Identity as Ideology* (Palgrave, 2006, Persian translation 2012), *The Sociology of Ethnicity* (Sage, 2004, Serbian translation 2009; Persian translation 2011) and co-edited volumes *Nationalism and War* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and *Ernest Gellner and Contemporary Social Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

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