The 4th International Academic Conference on Human Security – Human Security and New Technologies

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The 4th International Academic Conference on Human Security – Human Security and New Technologies was held on November 2–3 2018 at the Rectorate building of the University of Belgrade. The two-day event was organized by the Human Security Research Center of the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Security Studies and made possible by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Ministry of Education of Science and Technological Development Republic of Serbia. The Conference was an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to present and exchange their research results, experience and views on long-standing human security issues, such as violence of different forms and origin, but also some emerging issues, including how new technologies create both new opportunities and threats to human security. As pointed out in the Call for Papers for this year`s Conference, a wave of new technologies "is moving fast and causing changes on a global level, simultaneously affecting every individual human being and every community, whereas the fusion of technologies has resulted in a blurred line between physical, digital and biological sphere". This is why, unlike previous conferences, whose common thread was to attempt to shed light on some aspects of (predominantly) social phenomena, the 4th Conference was fully dedicated to a specific issue – new technologies and development.

The Conference was officially opened by Mr Petar Bulat, Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade, Mr

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Vladimir Cvetković, Dean of the Faculty of Security Studies, H.E. Mr Andrea Orizio, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, and Mr Goran Matić, Director of the Office of the National Security Council and Classified Information Protection of the Republic of Serbia. After a short press break, the special introductory session consisting of keynote lectures began. The first lecture was delivered by prof. Rastko Močnik, who presented state-of-the-art theory and practice in examining human security phenomena. He warned of the increasing diversification in the human security research approach and, consequently, in its research agenda. The second keynote lecture was given by Nathaniel Raymond from Yale University`s Jackson Institute of Global Affairs. Mr Raymond`s lecture "Reconceptualising Human Security for the Digital Age" explored the changeable nature of threats to human security and called for new ways of responding to them. These two lectures were followed by a short discussion between the panellists and spectators.

In the next keynote lecture, Mr Bülent Sarper Ağır from Adnan Menderes University in Turkey pointed to the challenges faced by academics in researching specific technological aspects of human security. While emphasizing the significance of examining social phenomena from the human security perspective, he also highlighted some research opportunities in the field. The very last keynote lecture was held by Mr Aleksej Tarasjev, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Belgrade's Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" (IBISS). His lecture was dedicated to biosafety and related international framework and policy issues in Serbia. These two talks were followed by another short discussion.

The Conference participants then split into four panels. The first panel was dedicated to technological aspects of human security such as encrypted telecommunications, international intelligence sharing, mass surveillance through metadata and some aspects of the GDPR. It consisted of seven presentations that put emphasis on

the digitalisation of human security in the modern era. The panellists agreed that future threats will be difficult to address as digital uncertainty rises with cyber development. The panel was moderated by Mr Đorđe Krivokapić from the Faculty of Organisational Sciences – University of Belgrade and Mr Milan Miljković from the Office of the National Security Council and Classified Information Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

The second panel focused on research dealing with warfare, hybrid aggression, law enforcement in crisis situations and some relevant aspects of open data and social media in examining specific human security threats such as depleted uranium weapons and emergencies. Six papers in total were presented during this panel, which was moderated by Mr Zoran Jeftić and Mr Goran J. Mandić, both from University of Belgrade – Faculty of Security Studies.

The third panel, with three subcategories, was held on the second day of the Conference. The first subcategory examined major issues such as urban security, local governance, smart cities and urban development strategies, while the second provided an overview of vital emergency response issues such as fire safety and CBRN threats. Lastly, authors presented analyses of climate change and its impact on social communities, as well as of public perceptions of urban security. Eight papers were presented at the panel, which was moderated by Ms Vesela Radović from the Institute for Multidisciplinary Research – University of Belgrade and Ms Marijana Sumpor from the Institute of Economics in Zagreb.

The fourth panel focused on mass migration issues and the role of media in violence prevention. Some presentations looked at right-wing extremism propaganda and the impact of the gender digital divide on security and women's human rights. This panel consisted of nine presentations and was moderated by Ms Jasmina Gačić from the Faculty of Security Studies in Belgrade and Mr

Srđan Korać from the Institute of International Politics and Economics in Belgrade.

Aside from its official academic part, the Conference also offered a two-part Method Workshop event, which gathered thirty postgraduates with the aim of advancing their knowledge in research-oriented issues. The first part, presented by Mr Nathaniel Raymond was titled "Data as People: Information, Rights, and the Future of Freedom". The second part, "The Use of Personal Protective Equipment in CBRN Training", was presented by representatives of the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences of the University of Belgrade.

The biannual Conference gathered over forty academics and scholars from thirteen countries, who presented thirty papers. The event was also attended by around ninety spectators and thirty method workshop participants. As with previous conferences, the event was featured in several media reports. Apart from high quality research presented at the Conference and spirited and fruitful debates, the Conference – a major endeavour of the Human Security Research Center – contributed to the field of human security by bringing new insights into the potential future explorations of the concept. All the papers presented at the Conference were published in the Proceedings of Human Security and New Technologies prior to the Conference.