

THE RISE OF EURASIA:

New perspectives for Cooperation between European and Asian Countries in the Eurasian era

A panel proposed and coordinated by Péter Klémensits, Hungary (Doctor, Political Sciences, International Relations, Asian Studies, Lecturer-Researcher, EURASIA Center, John von Neumann University, Budapest).

The panel is open to individual paper presentation. Those interested in presenting a paper in the panel are invited to submit an abstract of 200-300 words before November 30, 2023, by filling-in the online form at <https://forms.gle/6CV2FPAsAT973NRJ6>

Eurasia refers to the supercontinent formed by Europe and Asia, which is geologically one continent. Despite the heterogeneity of the region, the concept of Eurasia has been an important geopolitical issue since its emergence and a key factor in the geostrategies of the powers since the 20th century. Since the 2000s, the region has become even more important, and since then one can speak of the emergence of a Eurasian era in world history, in which economic, political, and military power is increasingly shifting eastward, while the Atlantic region has lost its central importance. At the same time, a new multicentric world order is emerging in which connectivity and complexity give new meaning to the unity of Europe and Asia, and the 21st century may become the century of Eurasia. As Portuguese politician Bruno Maçães put it, "With the emergence of new trade relations, a new geographical entity is beginning to emerge. Eurasia, the new supercontinent stretching from Europe to Shanghai or Jakarta." According to Jacopo Maria Pepe, a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, "The core of the current transformation is the beginning of a new Eurasian world economic system and a new Eurasian world order. Jakub Gryegel, a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., says that "over the past decade, there has been a strategic shift from Europe to Eurasia," with the dynamic shift clearly to East Asia's advantage.

Western European countries have been working to connect Europe with Asia since the 1960s, but the 21st century has seen major infrastructure investments at the initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping to build the Eurasian rail and road network under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Moreover, Russia's increased role in Eurasia is reflected in the foreign policy of President Vladimir Putin, who has said that he is "considering the possibility of a broader Eurasian partnership that would include the Eurasian Economic Union, which would include countries such as China, Pakistan, Iran, and India."

The panel is mainly looking for answers to questions such as

How important is Eurasia in the new world order? What kind of integration is becoming important in this region? What is the role of the Belt and Road Initiative? What is the relationship between the Eurasian Economic Union and the BRI? What impact could the RCEP have on the region? What are the challenges of cooperation between the EU and emerging regional integrations and initiatives (ASEAN, SAARC etc.)? How can BRICS cooperation contribute to the integration of Eurasia? What are the key opportunities and challenges for the partnership in the wake of the Covid 19 epidemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war?

Presenters

Dr. Levente Horváth, PhD, director Eurasia Center, John von Neumann University (China, international relations)

Dr. Ágnes Bernek, PhD, senior research fellow Eurasia Center, John von Neumann University (geopolitics of Central-Eastern-Europe)

Dr. István Szilágyi, Doctor of the HAS, professor, University of Pécs (geopolitics, international relations)