



UMCS
UNIwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej



**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
MARIA CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY in LUBLIN,
POLAND**
together with
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Branch in Lublin
and
POLISH SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, Unit in Lublin

have a pleasure to invite to a scientific conference:

**“CONSTRUCTION AND DECONSTRUCTION OF
STATEHOOD IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS”**

Lublin, November 28-29, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS

On the ground of the social sciences, a **statehood** can be defined as a set of features belonging to the state. It represents a dynamic ontological and functional structure of the internal and international kind that creates the state – the main political entity of the contemporary world and a major player in international relations. The construction of statehood encompasses a set of material and legal elements, which are necessary for existence and functioning of the state. The state is not a stable and consistent entity, though. The elements of statehood seem to be permanent and static, but in fact they inevitably change, contributing to the evolution of the state itself. History of international relations thus indicates **the process of formation, evolution, and collapse of states**, which is generated by both intra-national or/and international factors. It also shows the existence of differences in the **strength and scope of the state and its functions**, reflecting far individualized nature of the phenomenon of statehood.

The state is, therefore, clear only in its name and legal definition, while in reality, it is much more multiple and variable, weak and strong at the same time.

This ambiguity leads us to the era of the 'New Middle Ages' in which next to the modern and developed states exists a variety of 'semi-states', 'unfinished states', 'quasi-states', 'weak states', 'failed states', 'seemingly strong states', 'rogue states', 'virtual-states' or other subjects with the state in its name like the self-declared Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Although aforementioned differentiation of the state is still contrary to the traditional doctrine of the international law, which protects the continuity and integrity of the once formed and recognized state, qualitative differences of statehood remain actually a well-known fact that not only creates a 'gray zone' of statehood in the twenty-first century but also brings a number of challenges and risks for national and international security.

At the same time there are also **growing differences in interpretations of the concepts related to the statehood** like sovereignty, legitimacy or the right for self-determination, which inevitably undermine the principle of territorial integrity in the name of humanity (the doctrine of humanitarian intervention), modern international law, historical and political justice or geopolitical interests. In addition, as a result of internationalization and globalization, **state formation processes are gaining new impetus, content, and direction**. The last two decades show a growing phenomenon of differently labeled military intervention, followed by internationalized 'state-building' and 'nation-building' projects, with highly questionable results for the same state, region, and the entire international system.

This only superficial characteristics of the phenomenon, challenges and problems of the statehood in the first half of the twenty-first century leads to the conclusion that a dynamic development of many areas of social life – both at intrastate and international level – needs **a new, complex and interdisciplinary evaluation of the phenomenon of statehood in the contemporary and changing world**.

The planned scientific conference "Construction and Deconstruction of Statehood in International Relations" aims to develop research on statehood and explore its theoretical, ontological and functional dimensions. The representatives of the various humanities and social sciences, especially political science, international relations, sociology, law, economics, security, anthropology, journalism and cultural studies, which in different ways approach the phenomenon of state, are very much welcomed to participate in the conference.

The subject of scientific inquiry are, among others, the criteria for statehood and the issue of qualitative and quantitative indexation of statehood **(A)**. It is also necessary to present a perception of statehood in the light of different

theories of international relations and other social sciences **(B)**. Due to the fact that the state in international relations is seen both as a stabilizing actor and a source of many problems, the discussion needs to be focused on the typology of states and a plethora of challenges and threats generated by dysfunctional states and non-state entities preying on them **(C)**. The analysis of statehood on the regional level is also included **(D)**. Finally, it seems necessary to attempt a prognosis of the evolution of statehood in international relations in the perspective of next 30 years and to identify continuity and change factors in the long run **(E)**.

The panel discussion will be divided into **proposed panels**:

- A. Criteria for statehood in the twenty-first century.
- B. State and statehood in theories of international relations.
- C. Statehood in the late Westphalian international system.
- D. The regional dimension of statehood.
- E. Projections of statehood: "The world in 2050".

The working language of the conference is both Polish and English.

Papers can be presented and submitted in both Polish and English.

After the conference, **a monograph work** will be prepared.

The organizers reserve the right to grade the papers according to the criteria adopted by them.

REGISTRATION FORM (attached):

The form with an abstract (max. 200 words) should be sent to:

- ✓ greg.gil@poczta.umcs.lublin.pl
- or*
- ✓ konrad.pawlowski@poczta.umcs.lublin.pl

Prolonged registration: November 10, 2016.

CONFERENCE VENUE AND DATE:

The Faculty of Political Science, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin, Poland, November 28-29, 2016.

CONFERENCE FEE:

The conference fee is **360 PLN (€ 85)** and should be paid by **November 10, 2016** into the following bank account number with an annotation 'Conference/statehood/name and surname of the participant'.

Bank transfers in PLN:

73 1140 1094 0000 2905 1600 1137

in EUR:

PL78114010940000290516001047

SWIFT CODE: BREXPLPWLUB

Bank code: 11401094

It covers administrative costs (coffee breaks and official dinner), and the book publication print.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Participants of the conference cover the individual costs associated with travel and accommodation. The organizers provide assistance in booking accommodation.

Useful web links:

- ✓ booking.com
- ✓ lublin.eu

Conference Organizational Committee:

Grzegorz Gil, PhD
Konrad Pawłowski, PhD