



Secessionist and Statehood Bids in Times of Crisis

Course leader: **prof Eiki Berg**

With wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Nagorno-Karabakh dominating contemporary international relations the study of secessionist bids and the quest for statehood and recognition becomes paramount. Students of International Relations can benefit from a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the concepts and practices of secessionism as well as the way in which these aspects impact the international order.

This course highlights fundamental questions of sovereignty and statehood in the context of secessionist conflicts. It offers an insight into the topics such as self-determination and sovereignty practices, survival pathways, incomplete and negotiated secessions. We will also explore the topics of „frozen conflicts“ and de facto states and their agency. We then turn to analysing the politics of recognition,



counter-secession strategies and engagement without recognition as well as the success and failure of secessionist movements. This course relies mostly on first hand research and is comparative in nature, with students having the opportunity to explore different cases of secessionist bids from across the world through a combination of teaching, independent work as well as discussions based on various films and a fieldtrip to Narva - a city directly bordering Russia with a Russian-speaking majority population. A separate part of the course will be dedicated to a simulation exercise where students will have the chance to gain first hand experience of negotiation techniques as well as practical knowledge of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Who can apply?

- ▶ The registration is open to MA students and PhD candidates interested in issues of secession, recognition, statehood and „frozen conflicts“.

Which previous knowledge should the participant of this course have?

- ▶ Students with a background in International Relations, Political Science and Regional Studies are welcome to apply

How many ECTS is the course worth?

(1 credit point equals 26 hours of study work)

- ▶ 3 ECTS

[Click here](#)
for more information

or contact via e-mail: isu@ut.ee

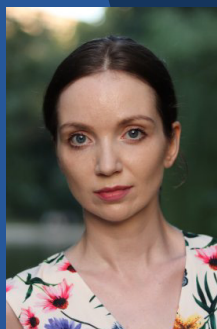
Lecturers



Professor
Eiki Berg



Dr Shpend
Kursani



Dr Ana Maria
Albulescu

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the various concepts and theoretical debates related to secession and statehood in International Relations
2. Explore and analyse various cases of secessionist bids across the world
3. Gain practical understanding of negotiations in self-determination disputes.

SCHEDULE

Sun, 28 July

Arrival. Welcoming events

Mon, 29 July

10:00–13:00 Self-determination and Sovereignty Practices

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “How to Start Your Own Country” (2011)

Tue, 30 July

10:00–13:00 Peace and Violence in Secessionist Bids: What Works?

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “Parts of the Circle: History of the Karabakh Conflict” (2019)

Wed, 31 July

10:00–13:00 De Facto States and “Frozen Conflicts”

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “PMR: In the State of Limbo” (2014)

Thu, 1 Aug

10:00–13:00 Patronage and De Facto State Agency

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “Abkhazia: The Long Arm of Russia” (2009)

Fri, 2 Aug

10:00–13:00 Politics of Recognition

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “The Agreement” (2013)

Sat, 3 Aug Fieldtrip to Narva

Sun, 4 Aug Fieldtrip to Narva

Mon, 5 Aug

10:00–13:00 Counter-secession Strategies and Engagement without Recognition

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “Somaliland: An Experiment in Democracy” (2015)

Tue, 6 Aug

10:00–13:00 Success and Failure of Secessionist Movements

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Film screening and discussion “Ghosts of Karabakh” (2021)

Wed, 7 Aug

10:00–13:00 Negotiation and simulation exercises

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 Conflict simulation exercise: Israel-Palestine Conflict

16.30 Conclusion and certificates

Thu, 8 Aug

Departure

- ▶ The workload of the students will consist of 72 hours of academic work and 6 hours of independent work (about 60 pages of reading materials).
- ▶ In the evenings there will be social events. Participation is voluntary.
- ▶ Throughout the year 2024, Tartu will be the European Capital of Culture so there will be large variety of cultural events taking place.