Breakfast Lecture

18.06.2025, 09:00 (s. t.)
Institut für Digitale Geisteswissenschaften, Elisabethstraße 59/III, Lehrsaal SR 81.31
UniMeet-Link: https://unimeet.uni-graz.at/b/dus-j0l-spi-ujn

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Post-National and National: Kosovo's Quest for a Narrative (Digital or Otherwise)

Kosovo's externally constructed independence in 2008 seemed to offer a new path to historical understanding that might make Kosovo an outlier in the memory politics of the Balkans where hegemonic narratives of victimhood and triumph prevail. Armed with a unique constitution, unburdened by religion, loads of international advisors and a young and dynamic population eager to join (not re-join) Europe. Kosovo had options, or so it seemed, including a very significant role for digital memory given Kosovo's high level of "connectivity".

This presentation examines how different actors in Kosovo has shaped the memory narrative over time often in response to domestic pressures but also those coming from the international community that still plays an outsized role in Kosovo. From the heady days of a potentially post-national future to the establishment of new and controversial narratives, Kosovo now finds itself just like the rest of the Balkans.

Robert C Austin is Associate Director of CEES at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. His most recent book is Royal Fraud: The Story of Albania's First and Last King (2024). Prior to that he published A History of Central Europe (2021), Making and Remaking the Balkans: Nations and States since 1878 (2019) and Founding a Balkan State (2012). His next book, Enver Hoxha: Twentieth Century Tyrant, co-authored with Artan Hoxha, is due out in 2026. He is now a Senior Visiting Fellow with Field of Excellence "Dimensions of Europe" at the University of Graz.

Breakfast Lecture will be held in a hybrid format, both in-person and online. A room is reserved for in-person attendance at the Department of Digital Humanities, Elisabethstraße 59/III, 8010 Graz

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