



Onsite Session: English 1. – Security Dynamics

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Reflections on Territorial Cleansing: Lessons from Bosnia & Herzegovina and Colombia

This small-N cross-regional comparative analysis explores the link between extreme but far from isolated massacres perpetrated during the Bosnian War (1992-1995) and an interval in the Colombian armed conflict (1997-2003) with their motives and outcomes applying the 'territorial cleansing' framework. Indeed, the territories subject to this type of violence experienced a reconfiguration in the demographics through mass killings, forced disappearances, evictions, and displacement. Today, despite condemning these acts of political violence in ad hoc international courts and national tribunals, the question of the returnees remains unsolved or at least stagnating. This presentation employs Egbert et al. (2016) and Lichtenheld (2020) to unveil the practices and strategies undertaken in the selected cases and contribute to the scholarly work bridging a geopolitical perspective within episodes of mass political violence.

Keywords: Bosnian War, Colombian armed conflict, 'Territorial cleansing' framework, Mass political violence, Comparative analysis