



# OSINT and Political Violence Summer School 2025

Sarajevo  
12-15 June 2025



Norwegian Embassy  
Sarajevo

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SUMMER SCHOOL  
OSINT AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE



In today's digitalized and globally connected world, open source intelligence techniques (OSINT)<sup>1</sup> have become essential for understanding complex security threats and criminological phenomena. The Balkans, as a geopolitically sensitive region, faces a range of challenges – from disinformation and political instability to violent social movements and foreign influences that undermine internal security. Young generations, future experts in the fields of criminology, security, journalism, law and political science, as well as activists from civil society need to be equipped with the tools and knowledge to contribute to the stability of the region and build more resilient societies.

The Summer School *OSINT and Political Violence*<sup>2</sup> represents a unique opportunity for young people from Balkan countries that are not yet members of the European Union to gain theoretical and practical knowledge about OSINT in the context of political violence, external influences and social movements. The program is designed as a response to current security challenges, overcoming the limitations of traditional forensic approaches in the digital environment. Special focus is placed on specific challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, where political tensions, violent movements, disinformation and external pressures further threaten stability and security. The program will be conducted in English, or in the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, without simultaneous translation.

The program offers a comprehensive overview of the latest tools, methods, and techniques for analyzing political violence in the digital environment. Through a carefully structured curriculum, participants will acquire skills in using advanced analytical tools such as *Maltego* and *Social Links*, which enable the identification of digital traces, tracking of information sources, and geolocation. The program includes simulations of real-life situations, from recognizing and analyzing disinformation to deconstructing manipulative narratives and monitoring political extremism networks.

*The OSINT and Political Violence* Summer School is not just an educational program – it is a platform for developing key analytical and research skills of young professionals. Participants will acquire knowledge necessary for future challenges in the region, including ethical use of OSINT techniques and contribution to regional stability. The program thus becomes an important step towards creating experts who are ready to face the security challenges specific to the Balkans and beyond.

- 1 OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) refers to the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information from publicly available sources to achieve intelligence objectives. OSINT involves collecting data from a variety of sources such as social media, media outlets, databases, public registries, and online forums, with the goal of recognizing patterns, identifying key actors, and gaining insight into complex security threats (Bazzell, 2024; Hetherington, 2024).
- 2 Political violence involves the use of force or the threat of violence to achieve political goals, including attacks on state institutions, specific groups or individuals with the aim of destabilizing the social order (Goodwin, 2006). Forms of political violence include collective violence, war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, terrorism, crimes of power, as well as extremist movements and foreign influences, which are used as tools to pressure society and state structures (Tilly, 2003; Rome Statute, 1998; Schmid, 2011; Rid, 2020).

## PROGRAM HOLDERS

The program is hosted by the University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies, which will be represented by Prof. Dr. Edina Bećirević and Dr. Mirza Buljubašić. The program is organized by the Atlantic Initiative with the strategic support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provides the resources and infrastructure necessary for the successful implementation of the program

## INITIATOR AND MAIN ORGANIZER OF THE PROGRAM

The initiators and main organizers of the program are the University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies and the Atlantic Initiative. The Atlantic Initiative assumes responsibility for the development and coordination of the program, as well as for networking with relevant domestic and international partners. Thanks to the strategic support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Atlantic Initiative provides the necessary resources, including accommodation for participants and experts, for the successful implementation of the program.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The target group of the program is young people – male and female students and young professionals from universities and organizations across the Balkans, with a special focus on non-EU countries. The program is intended for those who show an interest in crimes with a political dimension, socially harmful and security challenges, investigative journalism, as well as analytical and research methods in the context of OSINT.

Ideal participants include students and young professionals in fields related to criminology, law, political science including international relations, journalism, and security (and peace) studies, who wish to improve their skills in collecting and analyzing data from open sources of information. Previous experience or basic knowledge of OSINT and political violence principles is not required, but is welcome. Participants will go through a thorough selection process led by the Atlantic Initiative, with the possibility of engaging experts and organizations in the field of OSINT.

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# PRACTICAL PART

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The practical part of the OSINT and Political Violence Summer School 2025 is designed as an integral segment through which participants, using their own or Faculty computers, have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge acquired during lectures through work on concrete tasks and scenarios. Each day of the program includes practical activities that encourage the development of technical skills, critical thinking, and the ability to interpret and verify data from open sources in the context of political violence and digital threats.

During the second day of classes, focused on OSINT tools and research, participants will master the basics of advanced search logic, including Boolean operators, Google Dorking, and the analysis of specific file types and domains. Practical demonstrations and work on examples will include the formulation of research hypotheses and questions, the development of an investigation flow – from clues to reporting – and the evaluation of sources without the use of advanced technology. Visual OSINT will be further processed through a workshop dedicated to content verification, geolocation, and archiving, where participants will apply techniques such as reverse image search, determining the time frame of content creation (chronolocation), and the use of fact-checking tools, along with practical exercises in developing narratives based on verified data.

The third day of the program is dedicated to the application of OSINT tools in monitoring social media narratives, detecting digital traces and monitoring hybrid threats. Participants will work with a range of tools designed to analyze platforms such as X, Reddit, VK, 4Chan, Instagram and others, using social listening applications (Meltwater, Portal Combat), content geolocation tools (e.g. Snap Map, Parler Map), as well as methods of archiving and tracking extremist traces. Through a demonstration of the OSINT4Ukraine case, participants will be involved in concrete methodologies for documenting war crimes using visual, geolocation and social data, and learn the difference between information, evidence and intelligence.

The fourth day includes thematic units related to the misuse of surveillance and OSINT by authoritarian regimes, ethical dilemmas in publishing research findings, as well as the safety of researchers after publication. Participants will evaluate real (anonymized) cases to identify potential gaps and risks in the investigation. A special segment is dedicated to documenting war crimes, identifying hybrid tactics and disinformation actors, and applying OSINT techniques in judicial and police investigations. Participants will, through interactive exercises, understand the legal framework for collecting and using digital evidence, the chain of jurisdiction, and the challenges of their use in formal proceedings.

The entire practical part of the course is designed as a progressive series of tasks that build on each other, without formal public presentation of results or final reports, in accordance with the planned structure of the program. Evaluation of the knowledge and skills of the participants will be carried out through continuous mentoring, active participation and reflective discussions at the end of each day.

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# PROGRAM DURATION

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*The OSINT and Political Violence* program lasts a total of 75 hours, including a combination of lectures, practical activities, discussions, individual and group work, as well as independent study. The program is carefully designed to balance theoretical and practical aspects, providing participants with a comprehensive approach to learning and the opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge and skills.

Classes will take place at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies in Sarajevo. The program is implemented through:

- **10 hours of lectures:** introductory theoretical lectures and expert presentations covering the topics of political violence, extremism, ideology, hybrid threats, and legal and ethical aspects of OSINT;
- **30 hours of practical activities:** structured workshops and simulations using OSINT tools and techniques for research, verification, visualization and analysis of data in the context of political violence and disinformation;
- **25 hours of practical work:** individual and team analytical tasks within the module, verification and geolocation exercises, as well as work on strengthening the digital security of researchers;
- **10 hours of final sessions:** wrap-up discussions and evaluations with mentors at the end of each day, and final reflection and distribution of certificates.

This intensive program enables participants to master key OSINT methods and techniques for analyzing political violence through a structured curriculum, with a special focus on crimes with a political dimension, socially harmful crimes, and specific security challenges of the Balkans.

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## LECTURERS AND EXPERTS FROM PRACTICE

Professional training in the program will be provided by renowned experts in the field of OSINT, including researchers and technology experts from organizations such as Bellingcat and Tech Against Terrorism. It is also planned to include domestic organizations, such as ZaštoNe and the Balkan Research Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have significant experience in disinformation analysis. In addition, individuals specializing in digital evidence and political violence will be included in the training, which will ensure that participants receive comprehensive theoretical education and the opportunity to develop practical skills through work with practitioners. Initial contacts with lecturers and experts have already been made, which further guarantees high-quality and relevant training for program participants.

## PROGRAM/COURSE OBJECTIVE

The goals of the program are multiple and include:

Developing skills in OSINT analysis - To enable participants to master methods of collecting, verifying and presenting data from open sources, specifically applicable in the analysis of political violence.

Ethical Use of Publicly Available Information - Ensure that participants understand the legal and ethical norms governing the use of OSINT, especially in sensitive cases of political violence, disinformation, and privacy protection.

Practical application of OSINT tools - To prepare participants through simulations of real scenarios for professional tasks in which they will analyze and interpret information using OSINT tools, thus acquiring the practical knowledge necessary for working in real conditions.

Support to the judiciary, police, intelligence services, researchers and journalists - Participants will be trained to work in various sectors, such as criminological analytics, including police and intelligence analytical tasks, research work, legal support and journalism. Through these roles, participants will be part of a new young generation that contributes to regional stability, security and strengthening of institutions.

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## PROGRAM/COURSE OBJECTIVE

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Improving regional cooperation and understanding among young people in the Balkans - The program encourages cooperation between young people from different Balkan countries, especially from countries that are not members of the European Union, enabling the exchange of experiences and building a network of professionals who understand common challenges in the region.

Training in recognizing disinformation and manipulative narratives - Participants will acquire the skills to analyze and deconstruct manipulative narratives and understand the role of the media and social networks in shaping public opinion and spreading disinformation.

Preparation for professional roles in the field of digital criminological analytics, political violence, and combating contemporary security challenges - Participants will acquire skills to work in research centers/institutes, non-governmental organizations, judicial and security agencies, and other institutions where their knowledge of OSINT will be useful for analyzing and understanding complex illegal and harmful phenomena, as well as contemporary security challenges.

Upon completion of the program, participants will be trained to independently use OSINT tools and methods, which will enable them to become experts in the recognition, analysis and prevention of criminal acts, threatening activities, socially harmful phenomena and security threats. The program offers a unique opportunity to build a professional profile in jobs related to the application of criminological analytics, including police and intelligence analytical tasks, as well as various investigative tasks, providing legal support and performing investigative journalism tasks, among others, with the opportunity to gain practical experience that is crucial for working in a digital environment in these professions.

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# MODULES

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## Module I: Political Violence, Extremism and External Influences

**Goal:** To introduce participants to the concepts of political violence and extremism, including ideological, psychological and regional dimensions.

### Contents:

1. Psychology of violent extremism and terrorism
2. New trends in contemporary terrorism
3. Right-wing extremism in the Balkans

## Module II: Ideology and External Malignant Influences

**Goal:** Understand the influence of external ideologies on political stability.

### Contents:

1. Putinism in the Balkans
2. External influences and ideological manipulations in the digital space

## Module III: Hate Crimes and the Consequences of Online Hate Speech

**Goal:** Analyze the consequences and prevention of online hate speech.

### Contents:

1. Hate speech and hate crimes
2. Consequences of online attacks and harassment
3. Methods of analyzing and monitoring online hate speech

## Module IV: Prevention of Violent Extremism and Counter-Terrorism Strategies

**Objective:** To introduce participants to the strategic responses of institutions to extremism.

### Contents:

1. BiH Strategy for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (2021-2026)
2. Counter-terrorism operations



# MODULES

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## Module V: Introduction to OSINT and Basic Search Techniques

**Objective:** To master basic OSINT techniques for collecting and verifying data.

**Contents:**

1. Definition and scope of OSINT
2. Formulating research questions and hypotheses
3. Advanced search logic (Boolean operators, Google Dorking)
4. Verifying sources without advanced tools
5. Practical examples

## Module VI: Visual OSINT – verification and geolocation

**Objective:** To develop skills for verification and geolocation of visual content.

**Contents:**

1. Overcoming Obstacles in OSINT Investigations
2. Finding, archiving, and geotagging images and videos
3. Reverse image search and chronolocation
4. Fact-checking techniques (case studies)
5. Hands-on exercises using specialized tools such as Meltwater and Portal Combat

## Module VII: Influence Operations (IO) and OSINT Investigations

**Objective:** To train participants for identification and research of influential operations.

**Contents:**

6. Objectives and manifestations of the International Olympic Committee
7. Investigation and attribution techniques through OSINT
8. The role of artificial intelligence in IO
9. Examples and case studies
10. Practical exercises

# MODULES

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## Module VIII: Monitoring digital narratives, networks and threats

**Objective:** To learn the use of specialized tools for tracking digital narratives.

**Contents:**

1. Analysis of extremist narratives and disinformation
2. Social network analysis tools (Communalytic, Hamilton 2.0, VKWatch)
3. Geolocation and archiving tools (Hunchly)
4. Cyber vulnerability analysis (Recorded Future, WHOIS analysis)
5. Practical exercises

## Module IX: OSINT for documenting war crimes and hybrid warfare

**Objective:** Practical application of OSINT for documenting war crimes.

**Contents:**

6. Methodology of documenting war crimes with OSINT tools
7. SOCMINT, VISINT, GEOINT
8. Demonstration of OSINT4Ukraine tools (Project Mariupol)
9. Practical exercises

## Module X: Digital surveillance, spyware, gender-based violence

**Objective:** To understand the context of the use of OSINT in politically sensitive regions.

**Contents:**

1. Digital surveillance, spyware and gender-based violence
2. Technology and the criminalization of solidarity
3. Methods of documenting human rights violations using OSINT

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# MODULES

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## Module XI: Abuse of OSINT and surveillance by authoritarian states

**Objective:** Investigate the misuse of OSINT and digital surveillance tools in authoritarian regimes.

**Contents:**

1. Surveillance methods and spyware
2. Ethical implications and consequences for activists and journalists

## Module XII: Structuring OSINT Investigations, Ethical Dilemmas, and Investigator Safety

**Objective:** To develop skills for conducting and presenting OSINT research.

**Contents:**

1. Structuring and writing OSINT reports
2. Ethical dilemmas, researcher safety and digital identity protection
3. Practical exercises

## Module XIII: OSINT, evidence and application in justice and security

**Objective:** To acquaint participants with the legal framework and practical aspects of using OSINT in investigations.

**Contents:**

1. Legal frameworks for collecting digital evidence
2. The use of OSINT in judicial and security institutions
3. Chain of custody and verification of sources

## Final Day: Integration, Reflection and Closure

1. Final activities and presentations
2. Discussion with experts
3. Program evaluation
4. Certificate award ceremony

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## ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT WORKLOAD

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Activity	Hours	Description
Lectures	10	Theoretical lectures covering the basics of OSINT, political violence, external influences, ethics and legal aspects, and an introduction to specific tools and techniques.
Workshops and practical exercises	30	Intensive workshops with practical exercises, where participants use tools such as Google Dorking, Maltego, geolocation tools, etc.
Independent work	25	Participants will work on assignments and project preparation, including research, analysis, and report writing.
Closing discussions	10	Preparation for training, reflections and presentations, which include teamwork, in front of mentors and colleagues with a final discussion.

**Total hours:** 75 hours

- **ECTS credits :** 3 ECTS

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## LOCATION AND TIMEFRAME

The Summer School on OSINT and Political Violence will be held at the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies from June 12 to June 15, 2025.

## CERTIFICATE

Participants of the Summer School will receive a certificate issued by the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies.

## APPLICATIONS

All interested candidates must apply through the online form available at [www.summerschool.ba](http://www.summerschool.ba) no later than June 6, 2025.

For any additional information regarding the application process for the Summer School, you can contact the Summer School Leader at: [mbuljubasic@fkn.unsa.ba](mailto:mbuljubasic@fkn.unsa.ba).

Thanks to the strategic support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Atlantic Initiative will provide all participants with the necessary resources, including free registration, accommodation, coffee and meals during the Summer School. The number of available spots is limited, and the organizer reserves the right to select the most qualified candidates for the program.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE WINTER SCHOOL ARE OPEN UNTIL  
June 6, 2024, through the online form available at [www.summerschool.ba](http://www.summerschool.ba).

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# LECTURERS

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**Benjamin Shultz** (The United States of America/Germany) is the Lead Researcher at the American Sunlight Project, a bipartisan organization dedicated to countering online harms that undermine democracy. He is also affiliated with the Humboldt Institute for Internet & Society as a Junior Fellow and serves as an Artificial Intelligence Expert with the Council of Europe Conference on Drug Control Networks. Benjamin is a subject matter expert on Foreign Information Manipulation and Influence (FIMI), with research focusing on (1) Kremlin-backed disinformation campaigns aimed at weakening democratic institutions, and (2) the digitalization of organized crime operations and recruitment. Previously, he worked as a Lead Analyst on Deloitte's Counter-Foreign Malign Influence Team in Washington, D.C., and was selected as a 2023 NATO Youth Summit Delegate. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and a B.A. in Political Science from Sonoma State University. As a graduate student, Benjamin served as a Trainee at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, and collaborated with DebunkEU, a media literacy organization based in Vilnius, Lithuania. In his free time, he enjoys mapmaking, playing the piano, and skiing. He is fluent in German, reads French and Spanish, and is currently learning Russian.

**Brecht Castel** (Belgium) is a Belgian journalist and former fact-checker renowned for his expertise in OSINT. Since 2017, he has been associated with the Belgian magazine Knack, where he specializes in verifying viral images and videos, utilizing OSINT techniques to uncover the truth behind online content. He is passionate about educating others on OSINT methodologies, sharing tutorials and insights on platforms like X and YouTube. He has conducted masterclasses on visual OSINT for both beginners and advanced practitioners, sharing his knowledge and experience. Through his work, Brecht Castel has become a prominent figure in the OSINT community, contributing significantly to the fight against misinformation and the promotion of open source investigative techniques.

**Deniz Dirisu** (Ukraine) is Co-founder and Chairman of OSINT FOR UKRAINE. Deniz, an international OSINT and digital investigations consultant, is specialized in International Criminal Law, OSINT and Digital Investigations. Experienced in building and leading diverse teams across borders within the context of international justice.

**Edina Bećirević** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a Professor at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies of the University of Sarajevo. She is a co-founder of the Atlantic Initiative – Center for Security and Justice Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has worked as a researcher and consultant for a number of international organizations. She has published extensively on transitional justice, genocide, and extremism. She is the author of *Genocide on the Drina River* (Yale University Press, 2014), *Salafism vs. Moderate Islam* (Atlantic Initiative, 2016), and the co-author of *Left Behind: Survivors of Violent Extremism* (Atlantic Initiative, 2019). In the past four years, her research has focused on malign foreign influences and reciprocal radicalization. She has written opinion pieces for the Intercept, Euronews, and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Edina studied at the University of Sarajevo, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Central European University. She was also a Postdoctoral Fulbright Fellow at Yale University.

# LECTURERS

**Edo Sujoldžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) acts as National Legal Officer as part of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (OSCE Mission to BiH). He graduated at the Law Faculty, University of Sarajevo, in 2008. and passed the Bar Exam in 2021. in front of the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Edo completed internship at the Travnik Municipal Court and the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, in the War Crimes Department, where he assisted in conducting the most complex war crimes investigations. After that, he worked for two years as a Rule of Law Monitoring Assistant in the OSCE Mission to BiH, and since 2014 as a National Legal Officer who analyzes investigations and judicial proceedings in cases of war crimes, hate crimes, trafficking in human beings, organized crime and corruption, terrorism, election fraud, environmental crime and gender-based violence. As a National Legal Officer, he extensively dealt with issues of hate crimes and terrorism and provided trainings on these topics for members of police agencies, prosecutors and judges, religious leaders, students, the non-governmental sector, members of the state administration and journalists. Additionally, in 2024 Mr. Sujoldžić participated in drafting of the practical guide "Hate Crime Prosecution at the Intersection of Hate Crime and Criminalized Hate Speech" published by OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

**John Horgan** (The United States of America) is Distinguished University Professor at Georgia State University's Department of Psychology where he directs the Violent Extremism Research Group (VERG). His research examines terrorist psychology. He has over 120 publications, and his books include *The Psychology of Terrorism* (now in its second edition and published in a dozen languages), *Divided We Stand: The Strategy and Psychology of Ireland's Dissident Terrorists*; and *Walking Away from Terrorism*. His latest book, *Terrorist Minds: The Psychology of Violent Extremism from al Qaeda to the Far Right* was published by Columbia University Press in 2023. He serves on the Editorial Boards of several peer-reviewed journals. He has held positions at the University of Massachusetts (Lowell), Penn State, University of St. Andrews, and University College, Cork. His next book, *The Recruiters: How Terrorist Groups Find the Right Stuff for the Wrong Reasons*, will be published by Cambridge University Press.

**Lejla Čopelj** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is the Head of the Counterterrorism Department at the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she has been engaged since 2008 in various capacities. Since 2013, her primary focus has been on combating violent extremism, radicalization, and terrorism. Lejla holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies at the University of Sarajevo, where she is currently a PhD candidate in Criminology. She is a member of several working and expert bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as at the international level.

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**Majda Halilović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a research manager at the Atlantic Initiative. She received her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from the Open University and a Master's degree in Sociology of Education from Cambridge University. She currently attends the fourth year of education for a systemic family psychotherapist. Since 2000, she has worked on the research projects in mental health, and on social exclusion and discrimination programs. She has worked for the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, Save the Children, and as a consultant for the Open Society Foundation, Roma Education Fund, Open University, UNICEF, and many international organizations. She has worked for the Atlantic Initiative since 2012, and program areas of her work and research are: prevention of violence against women, sexual harassment and influence of radicalization and extremism on gender equality. On behalf of the Atlantic Initiative, she conducted a working group for the development of Guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment in the judiciary, and a working group for the development of Guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment at several faculties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is a trainer of the Civil Service Agency on the topic of sexual and gender-based harassment. She is a consultant and trainer in gender equality and violence against women for programs implemented by international organizations, and domestic non-governmental organizations and institutions. She conducted significant amount of scientific research and published a large number of academic papers.

**Marija Lučić-Čatić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a professor at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies of the University of Sarajevo, specializing in the scientific field of Criminalistics. She has published numerous scientific and professional articles in both domestic and international publications and has participated in several research projects in the fields of criminalistics, criminology, and law. She has organized and participated in many national and international scientific and professional conferences, round tables, and seminars. As a trainer in the field of hate crimes and hate speech, she has contributed to numerous trainings and educational programs for police officers, prosecutors, and judges, organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of Europe, the Sarajevo Open Centre, the Atlantic Initiative, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Center for Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Federation of BiH (CEST FBiH), and the Center for Education of Judges and Prosecutors of Republika Srpska (CEST RS). She is also the creator and lead instructor of the course *Methodology for Investigating Hate Crimes and Hate Speech*, taught at the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies at the second and third cycle of studies.

**Michael Colborne** (The Netherlands/Canada) is a senior journalist and trainer at open-source investigative journalism website Bellingcat. Based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, He focuses primarily on the transnational far right and oversees collaborations with citizen journalists and media outlets around the world. He has delivered training sessions to journalists, scholars, students and many others across Europe on open-source investigative journalism techniques. He is the author of "From the Fires of War: Ukraine's Azov Movement and the Far Right" (ibidem/CUP, 2022)

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# LECTURERS

**Nejra Veljan** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a project manager and researcher with expertise in security and justice studies. She earned her PhD from De Montfort University and holds both an MA in Security Studies and an LLM from the University of Sarajevo. Specializing in the analysis of radicalization, violent extremism, and gender-based crimes, she adeptly employs quantitative and qualitative methodologies, utilizing tools such as SPSS, Crowd Tangle and NVivo. In her role at the Atlantic Initiative, she is overseeing projects addressing all forms of violent extremism and supporting the work of institutions in reintegration of individuals returning from conflict zones. Additionally, she has worked with international and local organizations in the region and has collaborated with think tanks across Europe, aimed at countering violent extremism. Her work reflects a strong synergy between academic research and practical engagement with a broad range of stakeholders.

**Rebecca White** (The United Kingdom) is a researcher and advisor at Amnesty Tech's Security Lab. The Security Lab is a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, hackers, coders, campaigners and advocates working to protect civil society from unlawful digital surveillance, spyware and other human rights abuses enabled by technology, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Rebecca has worked as a campaigner on migration in Amnesty's Europe Regional Office, and was communications manager at the Department of Gender Studies at LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science). Rebecca also delivers trainings and keynotes on socio-economic representation in the workplace, higher education, and the arts.

**Sam Bollier** is a cybersecurity professional. He previously worked at Meta and LinkedIn, investigating influence operations and cybercrime, and building investigative tools for analysts.

**Vasile Popa** (Ukraine) is Co-Founder and Chief Technical Officer at OSINT FOR UKRAINE. Vasile, a software engineer and a cybersecurity specialist, has experience as an investigative data engineer and a software developer in cloud infrastructure and cybersecurity companies.

**Vlado Azinović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a Full Professor in the Department of Security and Peace Studies at the School of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo. His teaching expertise spans courses such as Understanding Terrorism, Terrorism and Political Violence, Contemporary Security Threats, European Security Policy, Euro-Atlantic Security, and Security and Media in Democratic Societies. Dr. Azinović is the author and co-author of several influential works on radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism, including studies on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as numerous articles in scholarly and professional journals. He also holds an honorary professorship at the Institute for Strategy and Security at the University of Exeter in the UK. Additionally, Dr. Azinović is a recognized expert in counter-terrorism and radicalization, consulting for various international organizations such as the European Commission, United Nations, OSCE, IOM, Council of Europe, British Council, and International Republican Institute. Prof. Dr. Azinović serves as an expert witness in terrorism-related cases for the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is a co-founder and General Secretary of the non-governmental organization Atlantic Initiative.

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# AGENDA

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## Day 1 - 12 June 2025 (Setting the Scene)

09:00 – 09:30 | Registration

09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Ceremony

*Prof. Dr. Tarik Zaimović, Rector of the University of Sarajevo*

*Prof. Dr. Jasmin Ahić, Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies*

*H.E. Else Kathrine Biering, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to BiH*

### 10:00 – 10:30 | Participant Expectations & Objectives

*Dr. Mirza Buljubašić, the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies*

- Overview of the summer school goals
- Participant introductions & networking activity

### 10:30 – 12:00 | Module 1: Violent Extremism and Terrorism + QA

*Prof. Dr. Vlado Azinović, Atlantic Initiative and Faculty of Political Science*

- *New Trends in (Contemporary) Terrorism*

*Dr. Nejra Veljan, Programme Manager, Atlantic Initiative*

- *Far-Right in the Balkans*

### 12:00 – 12:15 – Coffee break

### 12:15 – 14:00 | Keynote Lecture and Q&A

*Prof. Dr. John Horgan Department of Psychology, Georgia State University*

- *Psychology of Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Examining Recent Trends and Implications for Research, Practice, and Policy*

### 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch Break

### 15:00 – 15:45 Module 2: Ideology and Foreign Malign Influence + QA

*Prof. Dr. Edina Bećirević, Atlantic Initiative, and the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies*

- *Putinism in the Western Balkans*

### 15:45 – 17:15 | Module 3: Hate Crimes and Consequences of Online Hate Speech + QA

*Prof. dr. Marija Lučić-Čatić, the Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies*

- *Hate speech and Hate crimes*

*Dr. Majda Halilović, Head of Research, Atlantic Initiative*

- *Consequences of Online Attacks and Harassment*

### 17:15 – 18:00 Module 4: Preventing Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism: Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina + QA

*Lejla Čopelj, Ministry of Security BiH*

- *Counterterrorism Strategy (2021-2026) Counter-Terrorism Operations*

### 18:00 – 18:30 | Wrap-up

- *Participant reflections & Q&A*
- *Preview of Day 2*



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## Day 2 - 13 June 2025 (OSINT Tools & Investigations)

### 09:00 – 11:00 | Module 5: Introduction and OSINT Fundamentals

*Michael Colborne, Bellingcat*

- *Definition and scope of OSINT: what it is and isn't*
- *How to design open-source investigations: Formulating hypotheses and investigative questions; from lead → collection → verification → reporting*
- *Digital footprint tracing: using open-source tools and investigative processes to ethically find information about people*
- *Google Dorking*
- *Examples*

### 11:00 – 11:15 – Coffee Break

### 11:15 – 13:30 | Module 6: Visual OSINT – Thinking, Archiving, and Verification

*Brecht Castel - Knack.be*

- *Overcoming obstacles in OSINT investigations*  
*How to Find New Tools and Create Neat Toolbox*
- *Critical thinking frameworks for verification and analysis*
- *Finding, archiving, and geolocating images and videos*
- *Reverse image searching and identifying the oldest version of media*
- *Chronolocation: Determining the time when content was created*
- *Fact-checking techniques and Russian case studies*
- *Hands-on practice: Story development using OSINT verification tools*

### 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

### 14:30 – 16:30 | Module 7: Using open-source techniques to investigate influence operations (IO)

*Sam Bollier, Former Meta*

- *What are these operations' goals? How do they manifest online (and offline)?*
- *What are some real-world examples, and how were they discovered?*
- *Investigating IOs*
- *How to analyze leads and pivot using OSINT techniques*
- *Attribution using OSINT*
- *AI's increasing role in propagating IOs*
- *Applicability of these techniques to other types of online investigations (such as into extremist networks)*
- *Case study*
- *Exercise*
- *What can be done in response to IOs?*

### 16:30 | Wrap-up & Key Takeaways

- *Summary of key lessons from Day 2*
- *Discussion on challenges in OSINT investigations*
- *Preview of Day 3*

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## Day 3 - 14 June 2025 (Social Media Monitoring, Hybrid Threats & War Crimes Mapping)

### 09:00 – 11:30 | Module 8: OSINT Tools for Tracking Digital Influence: Narratives, Networks, and Threats

*Benjamin Shultz, American Sunlight*

- *Tracking extremist narratives and disinformation trends*
- *Impact of platform restrictions (e.g., removal of free researcher APIs)*
- *OSINT tools for social media analysis: BlueSky (Communalystic), Reddit (PullPush), X (Hamilton 2.0), VK (VKWatch), WhatsApp (WATools), 4Chan (4Plebs), Instagram (Story Saver), PayWall bypass (ByeByePayWall)*
- *GeoLocation tools: MWGeoFind (YouTube), FWDown (Facebook), Snap Map (Snapchat), Parler Map*
- *Extremist content analysis: Global Terror Database, Tor Proxy, Discord Leaks*
- *Cyber vulnerability analysis: Recorded Future, WHOIS analysis (CentralOps)*
- *Archiving: Hunchly*
- *Hands-on practice: Social listening tools (Meltwater, Open Measures, Portal Combat)*

### 11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

### 12:00 – 13:30 Module 9: OSINT for Atrocity Crimes & Hybrid Warfare

*Deniz Dirisu & Vasile Popa, OSINT4Ukraine*

- *A Playbook: On using OSINT to investigate and document atrocity crimes*
  - » *Demystifying OSINT - what it is and isn't?*
  - » *Understanding Evidence, Intelligence and Information*
  - » *Tools and Techniques:*
    - *SOCMINT - Social Media Intelligence*
    - *VISINT - Visual Intelligence*
    - *GEOINT - Geospatial Intelligence*
    - *Key OSINT toolkits*
  - » *How OSINT translates into Evidence for the Courtroom*
  - » *Project Mariupol tool demonstration*
  - » *How to document and verify war crimes using OSINT*
  - » *Open-source methodologies for conflict research*

### 13:30 – 14:30 | Lunch Break

### 14:30 – 16:00 | Module 10: Piecing Together the Puzzle

*Michael Colborne, Bellingcat*

- *How to think laterally and creatively with digital clues (i.e., making the impossible easy)*
- *Focusing on the detail(s): exercises on 'careful looking and noticing'*
- *Combining geolocation, chronolocation, visual and audio clues, etc*

### 19:00 – Reception and dinner (Venue TBC)

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## Day 4 - 15 June 2025 (Final Exercises, Digital Evidence)

### 09:00 – 11:00 Targeted digital surveillance as a tool of state repression

*Rebecca White, Amnesty International*

- Spyware: Evolution and Impact. Overview of how spyware technologies have developed and how they're used globally to suppress civil society.
- Case Study: Serbia. Examination of how Cellebrite tools were used against journalists and activists, and how investigative efforts led to a halt in sales to Serbia. Includes recent Pegasus targeting examples.
- Gendered Repression & Spyware. Insights from Thailand on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TfGBV), highlighting spyware's role in gendered repression.
- Democratizing Digital Forensics. Introduction to Amnesty's Digital Forensics Fellowship and Mobile Verification Toolkit (MVT), with discussion on collaborations with journalists and the Pegasus Project.
- Interactive Component. Planned hands-on exercise or quiz to enhance interactivity and application of concepts.

### 11:00 – 13:00 | Module 12: OSINT for Conflict Analysis & Atrocity Crimes Investigations

*Deniz Dirisu and Vasile Popa, OSINT4Ukraine*

- *Methods for documenting and verifying war crimes using OSINT*
- *Identifying key disinformation actors and hybrid warfare tactics*
- *Practical exercise: War crimes verification case study*

### 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00 – 15:30 | Module 13: OSINT, Evidence, and Law Enforcement

*Edo Sujoldžić, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*

- *Legal Frameworks for Evidence Collection*
- *Collection and Use in Law Enforcement Investigations*
- *Evidence Admissibility*
- Challenges in integrating OSINT into legal cases
- Chain of custody and verification of digital sources
- How law enforcement agencies can use OSINT for investigations

### 15:30 – 16:30 | Closing Ceremony & Certificate Distribution