

American Professor uses Fulbright Award to study RACVIAC and other Regional International Organizations



LTC Nikola Suić and Professor Melanie H. Ram

During fall 2022 RACVIAC welcomed Professor Melanie H. Ram from the USA to our offices. RACVIAC was one of Dr. Ram's host International organizations for her research on regional cooperation and post-communist intergovernmental organizations and initiatives in Central and Southeastern Europe. Dr. Ram is the recipient of the 2022-2023 Fulbright-Schuman European Union Affairs US Scholar research grant, an award jointly funded by the United States government and the European Union. This grant enabled Dr. Ram to pursue her research in three EU member states - Croatia, Romania, and Italy – and speak to staff and government officials working in and with many different organizations.

During her four months conducting research in Europe, Dr. Ram was also hosted by the Central European Initiative in Trieste, the University of Zagreb and the University of Bucharest. During her time in the region, she also gave several guest lectures at her host universities and in the community, for example at the American Academy in Zagreb.

While based at RACVIAC Dr. Ram had the opportunity to join and observe many different RACVIAC activities and interact with RACVIAC staff. She also shared her perspectives on RACVIAC activities and achievements.

Dr. Ram has spent her academic career studying Central and Eastern Europe, European Union enlargement and international organizations, including minority rights issues. Her current research explores how and why subregional intergovernmental organizations have proliferated since the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe; how they have persisted, evolved, and differentiate themselves and how they have contributed to European stability and security in the aftermath of the wars in the Balkans and now in the wake of the Russian war in Ukraine. With the future of international cooperation in Europe of critical importance today, her research focuses on the little studied formal and informal intergovernmental organizations bridging Eastern, Central, and Western Europe. Prior to becoming a professor, Dr. Ram worked in international development as a liaison between the aid agencies of Japan and the U.S. in Washington, DC, where she also earned her Ph.D. at George Washington University.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world for over seventy-five years. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates, 88 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 39 who have served as a head of state or government.

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long-term cooperative relationships. The Fulbright Schuman Program and the Fulbright Program in Croatia also offer awards to European students, scholars, and other professionals to conduct research and/or lecture in the US.

Dr. Ram returned to California State University, Fresno this spring where she continues to work on her research and teach courses in International Relations in the Department of Political Science. She is extremely grateful to RACVIAC staff as well as RACVIAC participants for helping to make her experience so interesting, enriching, and meaningful. ●



RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo and Professor Melanie H. Ram