

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Academic Workshop

THE OMBUDSMAN'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CRISES

Belgrade, 22 – 23 June 2026

Conveners: Dr Luka Glušac, Prof Naomi Creutzfeldt, Prof Chris Gill

The ombudsman has been studied from a variety of perspectives but there has been limited interest to date in understanding how the institution has responded to the major global crises and challenges of our time. Ombudsman studies have tended to focus on individual jurisdictions and are often framed in terms of evaluating ombudsman effectiveness against criteria such as independence, accessibility, or impact. The potential contribution of the ombudsman in responding to large-scale and common challenges that are affecting jurisdictions around the world is an essential question to consider in terms of ensuring the present and future relevance of the institution.

This workshop invites papers that examine the role of the ombudsman in the context of the following global crises and challenges:

1. The climate crisis
2. Growing insecurity and armed conflict
3. Increased migratory flows and human mobility
4. Attempts to undermine universities
5. Rule of law and democratic backsliding
6. Global health challenges (including Covid)
7. The social, environmental, and economic impacts of artificial intelligence

The workshop will form the fourth instalment of the successful series of workshops and edited collections on the ombudsman institution, namely *Research Handbook on the Ombudsman* (eds. Marc Hertogh and Richard Kirkham, Edward Elgar, 2018), *The Ombudsman in the Modern State* (eds. Matthew Groves and Anita Stuhmcke, Hart, 2022), and *New Directions in Ombuds Research: Empirical and Critical Perspectives* (eds. Julia Dahlvik and Axel Pohn-Weidinger, Hart, forthcoming).

The workshop will involve a two-day in-person workshop, with a strong expectation that papers will subsequently be developed for publication in an edited volume. Our current intention is to submit a proposal for an edited collection to Edinburgh University Press' *Access to Justice in a Changing World* book series. Hence, the successful applicants will be expected to share draft paper outlines by **1 June 2026**. These will be circulated among all participants to facilitate discussion and feedback.

The workshop is convened by Dr Luka Glušac (University of Belgrade), Professor Naomi Creutzfeldt (University of Kent), and Professor Chris Gill (University of Glasgow).

The organisers encourage a wide range of practitioner perspectives and encourage practitioner-academic collaboration in addressing the challenges identified above.

Besides established scholars, we particularly encourage applications from post-graduate and early career researchers, with a view to continuing to develop ombudsman studies as a field of study. Limited funds may be available to cover an economy-class flight ticket and accommodation for early-career researchers. Please indicate in the application form if your participation is contingent on such support.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided during the workshop.

The workshop will be hosted on Monday, 22 June 2026, and Tuesday, 23 June 2026, at the [Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory](#), University of Belgrade (at [Kraljice Natalije 45](#)), a leading social sciences and humanities research institute in South-East Europe. The Institute is situated right in the city centre, offering easy access not only to the workshop sessions but also to Belgrade's key cultural, political, and historic attractions. More information on the workshop location [here](#).

Interested scholars should send a 250-word abstract and a short bio through an application form available [here](#).

The deadline for applications is **15 March 2026**.

Selected participants will be notified by **31 March 2026**.

For any additional information, please contact Luka Glušac at luka.glusac@ifdt.bg.ac.rs.