

Leonardo Zanatta

PhD Candidate & Researcher | [Doctoral School of International Relations and Political Science, International and Security Studies Program, Corvinus University of Budapest](#) **Research Coordinator** | [Cold War History Research Center](#)

Personal Information

Leonardo Zanatta holds a BA in International and Diplomatic Affairs and a MA in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe from Bologna University. During this period, he was awarded with an “Overseas Mobility Scholarship” (A.Y. 2017-2018), a “MIREES Mobility Scholarship” (a.y. 2019-2020), and an “Erasmus Mundus Scholarship” (A.Y. 2019-2020), thanks to which he spent exchange semesters at the *Higher School of Economics* (Moscow, Russia), *Saint Petersburg State University* and *ADA University* (Baku, Azerbaijan).

He is pursuing his doctoral degree in International Relations and Political Science (with a minor in security studies) at the *Corvinus University of Budapest* (2021-2025), with the financial support of the Hungarian State Scholarship. He has worked as a research coordinator at the Cold War History Research Center since September 2021 and as a teaching assistant/seminar leader at Corvinus University since February 2022.

Trained prevalently in qualitative methods, he has conducted primary and secondary research in English, Russian and Italian. His doctoral research is focused on Russia’s role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and on the extent to which ontological security, collective memory, and narratives have influenced the current status of Russian-Armenian relations.

Education

PhD in International Relations and Political Science

Corvinus University of Budapest

September 2021 – September 2025 (in course)

- Thesis: *Ontological Security, Intervention and Narratives: Rethinking Russian-Armenian Relations Throughout the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*
- Supervisor: Dr. Zoltán Kelemen

MA in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe

Bologna University, Saint Petersburg State University, Vytautas Magnus

University of Kaunas, Corvinus University of Budapest.

September 2018 – March 2021

- Thesis: *A New Caspian Great Game: Mapping Conflict and Cooperation in the Energy Sphere After the 2018 Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea* • Supervisor: Dr. Stanislav Tkachenko
- Grade: 110/110.
- Coursework GPA: 29,44/30.

- Selected for an exchange semester at **Saint Petersburg State University** (September 2019- February 2020) and **ADA University** (February-August 2020). During this time, I was also a visitor fellow at the Caspian Center for Energy and Environment.

Bachelor's Degree in International and Diplomatic Affairs
Bologna University

September 2015 — September 2018

- Grade: 110/110 *summa cum laude*
- Selected for an exchange semester at the **Higher School of Economics** (Moscow, Russian Federation).

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant and Seminar Leader
Corvinus University of Budapest

February 2022 – in course

- I assisted or co-assisted the MA courses “Academic Writing and Communication”, “International Relations from 1815 to 1945”, and “Challenges to Security in Central Eastern Europe”.

Research & Work Experience

Research Coordinator
Cold War History Research Center

Budapest, Hungary
September 2022 – in course

- I contributed as an assistant editor to the two main publications of the Center: The Chronology of the Cold War and the Bibliography of the Cold War.
- I supported the Center in all its events (Conferences, lectures, etc.) and activities.
- I selected the new research interns, assigned tasks to them and supervised them periodically.
- I edited and proofread the Center's publications
- I monitored the webpage and the Facebook fan page of the Center periodically.
- I coordinated with Oxford Careers and other universities the students' participation in the Center's summer internship program.

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Intern

United Nations Development Programme – Istanbul Regional Hub March

April 2021 - August 2021

- I was conducting research activities on climate risk assessment and green finance promotion policies in Central Asian, Caucasus and Western Balkan markets.

Freelance Journalist and Analyst

January 2020 – in course

- I am writing articles and analysis on policy, security and economic issues in the Post-Soviet space for different Italian and foreign newspapers and think-tanks. Some samples can be found at:
<https://www.geopolitica.info/archivio-autore/?autore=Leonardo%20Zanatta>.
<https://www.eastjournal.net/archives/author/leonardo-zanatta>.

Prizes, Awards, & Fellowships

- I was selected for the **Overseas Mobility Scholarship** to study for the autumn semester 2017-2018 at the Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russian Federation) (September 2017).
- MIREES Mobility Scholarship to spend an exchange semester at the Saint Petersburg University (September 2019).
- **Erasmus Mundus Scholarship** to conduct thesis research activities at ADA University (Baku, Azerbaijan) (January 2020).
- I was awarded a **Hungarian State Scholarship** (tuition fee waiver + monthly salary) to pursue my doctoral program (September 2021).
- I won the second place of the 2022 25th **Spring Wind Conference Political Science Section** organized by the organization of Hungarian PhD and DLA candidates (DOSZ) and by the Doctoral Students Association of the University of Pécs (May 2022).
- I was selected as a **Chatham House’s Common Futures Conversation Fellow** (October 2022).
- I was selected as **Italy’s representative for the International Student Forum on Youth, Peace and Security** (Baku, Azerbaijan) (November 2022).

Member of the following Scholarly Societies:

- British International Studies Association (*BISA*).
- Associazione per lo Studio in Italia dell’Asia Centrale e del Caucaso (*ASIAC*).
- Association for the Study of Nationalities (*ASN*).

Additional Education (Non-Degree Courses)

- I participated at the NATO model event “Securing Stability, Meeting New Challenges: NATO and the Relevance of Consensus Building in the Coming Multi-Order” organized by NATO HQ SACT and Bologna University (June 2018).

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- I participated in the Summer school “Russian Energy Policy and International Energy Cooperation” organized by MGIMO University (Moscow, Russian Federation) (June – July 2019).
- I attended the course “Russian C1 for Economics and International Relations” organized by Corvinus University (with a mark of 5/5) (January 2022-June 2022).
- I have participated in the “Eastern Armenian for Beginners” and “Turkish A1” language courses, organized respectively by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and “School of Turkish” (February 2023-in course).

Conferences & Workshops

- ASIAC Yearly Conference 2022. Panel “Conflict and Identity in the Caucasus”. Bergamo University (December 2022).
- Bouncing Back or Moving Forward? Contextualizing Resilience in the South Caucasus. Panel “Resilience, Sustainability, and Resourcefulness”. Tbilisi State University (November 2022).
- Politics of Emotions workshop. University of Stockholm (September 2022).
- 8th Annual CRRC Conference. Recovery and Realignment. Panel “The 44-Day War and Its Implications on the South Caucasus” (June 2022 Online)
- 12th Annual Cold War History Research Center International Student Conference. Panel “The legacies of the Cold War”. Corvinus University of Budapest (May 2022).
- 25th Spring Wind Conference. Panel “Political Science, subsection 1”. University of Pécs (May 2022).
- Caucasus Research Forum. American Research Institute of the South Caucasus & Slavic Reference Service at the University of Illinois – online (March 2022).
- Fifth Annual AESC Convention. Panel “The New Geopolitics in the Caucasus and the EU’s Role”. Online (December 2021)
- ASIAC 2021 Yearly Conference. Panel “Narratives and Myths in the Caucasus”. La Sapienza University (Rome, Italy) (October 2021).
- EISCAS Final Conference. Panel “Past, current and upcoming dynamics in the Central Asian region, and their impacts for Europe”. Monasterium Poortackere, (Ghent, Belgium) (September 2021).
- Speaker and Panelist at the Fifth Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and Eurasian Studies. University of Tartu - Online (June 2021).
- International Turkic Energy Cooperation Congress. Online, (March 2021).
- 3rd Graduate Student Conference on Energy and Sustainable Development. Kadir Has University Center for Energy and Sustainable Development (Turkey, Istanbul) (December 2020).
- Russia in the Historical Perspective. Cultural, Economic and Political Issues Academic University for Humanities (Moscow, Russian Federation) (June 2020).

Languages

- Italian: Native Speaker
- English: Fluent (C1/C2)
- Russian: Fluent (C1)
- Eastern Armenian: Beginner (A1)
- Turkish: Beginner (A1)
- Spanish: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Publications & Research Output

Publications:

- **Book chapters:**
 - Zanatta, L. (2023). Dugin, Iran, and the EAEU: Understanding Russian-Iranian Relations Under a NeoEurasianist Perspective. In M. Tárík & S. Veres (Eds.), *Eurasia Series: Regional integration in Eurasia* (pp. 37–56). Book chapter, Eurasia Center, John von Neumann University.
 - Zanatta, L. (2023). EU-Turkmenistan Energy Cooperation Failure: It Is Not Only About Geopolitics. In T. Kruessmann (Ed.), *The Caucasus in Europe-Asia connectivity the promise of infrastructure and Trade* (pp. 131–162). Book chapter, Ibidem Verlag.

Manuscripts in progress or under review

- **Book chapters:**
 - Zanatta L. & Alvi M. “Assessing water (ir)rationality in disputed regions: Nagorno-Karabakh in the aftermath of the 44 days war” as a chapter for the OSCE Academy’s book "Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region, 2023.
 - Barberis C.F. & Zanatta L. “Negotiating Emotions in an Unwelcoming Context: Being Russian in Georgia During Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine” as a chapter of a book which will be devoted to the Politics of Emotions. The draft of the paper was pre-approved and presented at a specific workshop at the University of Stockholm in September 2021. The first reviews were sent in December 2022, and the research will then be re-presented at Oxford University in April 2023.
- **Editorial Contributions:**
 - Bekés, C. (ed.) – Zanatta, L. (assist. eds) et al. (2023): *The Bibliography of New Cold War History: Sixth enlarged edition*, Budapest: Cold War History Research Center.
 - Bekés, C. (ed.) – Zanatta, L. (assist. ed.) et al. (2023): *The History of the Soviet Bloc 1953–1968: Third enlarged edition*, Budapest: Cold War History Research Center.

Academic & Work References

- **Kelemen Zóltan**
Professor at Corvinus University and supervisor of my doctoral dissertation.
[REDACTED]
- **Csaba Békés**
Full professor at Corvinus University, Head of the Cold War History Research Center.
[REDACTED]
- **Péter Marton**
[REDACTED]

Leonardo Zanatta

Associate professor at Corvinus University, head of the
Doctoral Program “International and security studies”



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