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Fellow Seminar

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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN POST-MILOSEVIC SERBIA

The post-Cold War era saw a proliferation of international judicial institutions. The *ad hoc* tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR) created an impetus for the establishment of the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC), which became operational in 2002. These international tribunals were established on the premise that the search for justice and truth for past human rights abuses could promote liberalizing political change and reconciliation in post-authoritarian and post-conflict societies. This paper explores the relationship between international criminal justice and democratization in target states through an examination of the ICTY's impact on political transition in Serbia. I draw on a collection of personal interviews with Serbian political elites and an analysis of media excerpts to elucidate official attitudes towards the ICTY in Serbia in the period 2000-2010. On the basis of these data, I argue that the ICTY unintentionally alienated the Serbian transitional authorities by undermining the stability and legitimacy of the new democratic regime. The Serbian case thus illustrates the tensions arising between international justice and early democratization and suggests that the success of international justice is premised upon democratic consolidation in target states.

Mladen Ostojić is a political scientist interested in post-war reconstruction, transitional justice, democratization and international intervention. He has published several articles and book chapters on transitional justice and civil society in the Western Balkans and is currently working on a manuscript entitled *International Justice and Democratic Consolidation in Post-Milosevic Serbia: Trials and Tribulations*. He holds a PhD from Queen Mary, University of London, and an MA from University College London.