Synopsis

This roundtable discussion addresses questions about the legacy of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in connection with its imminent closure. Among other things, it focuses on the consequences for societies across the region. While the creation of the ICTY was widely considered a watershed moment for international law, it has also sparked a wave of criticism. Moreover, a series of recent ICTY judgments, such as the acquittal in the cases of former Croatian General Ante Gotovina and Serbian General Momcilo Perisic, has rekindled some of the critique. Closing the chapter of international war crimes prosecutions in the Balkans therefore raises several questions especially with regards to post-conflict justice: What is the impact of current trial outcomes on national war crimes prosecutions across the region? How do the present legacy-building trends at the Tribunal affect societies in their efforts to deal with the past? Could a negative perception of war crimes trials in The Hague hamper stability, especially in view of the recent political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina? Our guests Refik Hodzic, Iva Vukusic, Belinda Cooper and Jennifer Trahan are experts who have closely followed the Tribunal’s work on the ground. They will share their experiences and address these critical questions.