



# illiberalism | NEWSLETTER

Studies Program

AT GW'S INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN, RUSSIAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Issue 5 | March 2021 | [www.illiberalism.org](http://www.illiberalism.org)



## Research Projects



[Transnational History of the Far Right](#)

[Russia and China as Service Providers of Illiberal Governance](#)

[Russian Conservatism](#)

[Conceptualizing Hierarchy and Resilience in Global Power Politics](#)

## Upcoming events:



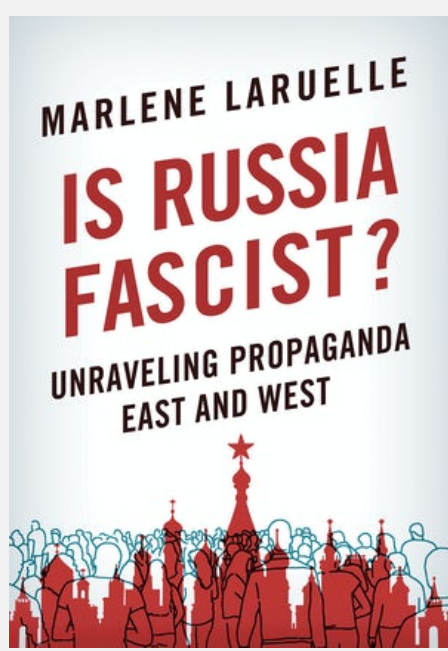
### New Directions for France and the Mediterranean

Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
10:00 - 11:00 am (EST)

[RSVP](#)

Virtual Event - [Click Here for the Zoom Session](#)

In July 2020, President Emmanuel Macron of France established a new ministerial position to facilitate France's economic, political, and social initiatives involving the Mediterranean region. Designed to address region-wide concerns such as migration, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges, this position aims to bring together regional actors from multiple countries. Join us for a conversation with French Ambassador to the Mediterranean **Karim Amellal**, who will speak about his current work on-site in Algeria, recent social and political developments in France, and the impact of COVID-19 on French policy. *This event will be in French with a bilingual Q&A and will be accessible to intermediate-level French speakers and above.*



### Is Russia Fascist? Unraveling Propaganda East and West

Friday, March 26, 2021  
10:00 - 11:30 am (EST)

[RSVP](#)

Please join us for the Elliott School Book Launch Series event of IERES Director **Marlene Laruelle's** new book, *Is Russia Fascist?* (Cornell University Press). Dr. Laruelle will be joined by moderator **Henry Hale** and panelists **Yoshiko Herrera**, **Sophie Pinkham**, and **Anton Shekhovtsov**.



### Populism à la Kyrgyz: Sadyr Japarov, Nationalism, and Anti-Elite Sentiment in Kyrgyzstan

Asel Doolotkeldieva on the popular uprising of October 2020 in Kyrgyzstan, the rise of populist president Sadyr Japarov, and future prospects for Kyrgyzstan under populist rule.



### Mitchell A. Orenstein and Maria Snegovaya on the political economy of populism in Central Europe

Mitchell A. Orenstein and Maria Snegovaya on political economic reasons explaining the success of illiberal populist right parties in Central and Eastern Europe.

### Filippo Costa Buranelli on illiberal solidarism and authoritarian cooperation in Central Asia

Filippo Costa Buranelli on Central Asia as a region of illiberal solidarism and on conceptualizing authoritarian rule as an institution.



### Alexandra Yatsyk and Andrey Makarychev on illiberal biopolitics

Alexandra Yatsyk and Andrey Makarychev on the relationship between biopolitics and illiberalism in the post-Soviet world



Judit Ricz argues that shared characteristics of illiberal states forwarding state-led developmentism constitute a [new model of illiberal state capitalism](#).

Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman argue that illiberal states have exploited norms of openness to [attack and undermine the liberal international information order](#) (LIIO). They demonstrate how the mechanisms of global governance of the internet, transnational disinformation campaigns, and domestic information governance have undermined the survivability of the LIIO.

Nicole Doer examines the use of graphical images by Germany's AfD party as a tool for branding the party as a liberal ally of women's empowerment and LGBT rights while simultaneously maintaining an illiberal political agenda on gender and sexuality. She argues that the visual politics of far-right parties, such as the AfD, is part of a [strategy to market themselves as "progressive" and attract new voters](#).

Madalena Meyer Resende and Anja Hennig analyze a [deepening rift between liberal and nationalist factions of Polish Catholicism](#) and propose two theories to explain this recent distancing. First, they suggest that the legitimizing force of the initial alliance radicalized National Catholic factions in the PiS party subsequently provoking a pushback from the Episcopate. Second, they stress that positive influence from Pope Francis on the issue of refugees may have prompted bishops to reassert the Catholic Church's stance away from the party.

Wouter van der Brug, Sebastian Adrian Popa, Sara B. Hobolt, and Hermann Schmitt look at the relationship between holding liberal democratic views and support for the European Union. Finding a positive correlation between [support for the EU and support for liberal democratic principles](#), they argue that this correlation may be due to the design of the EU with "strong institutional checks-and-balances, but a weak link to citizens."

Analyzing media discourse in New Zealand, Elena Maydell, Keith Tuffin, and Eleanor Brittain argue that the use of populist rhetoric in debates on race issues [give credence to racist and anti-minority policies](#) that contribute to the growth of populism. Christina Holtz-Bacha explain that populist attacks on the funding sources of public media agencies, such as the BBC, [threaten the independence of those agencies](#) and increase pressure on the democratic system.

Diego Fossati, Burhanuddin Muhtadi, and Eve Warburton argue that increasing political polarization in Indonesia may cause citizens to [abandon democratic norms](#) even in the absence of strong partisan identities.

*For more resources on illiberal, populist, and authoritarian trends across the globe, consult our growing [Resource Hub](#) aggregating hundreds of published academic articles on illiberalism and other topics relating to illiberal movements. From security and international affairs, to democratic backsliding and public policy, this center of longstanding and recently-published literature continues to document ongoing global trends of growing illiberal movements around the world.*

[Visit the Resource Hub](#)

Institute for  
European, Russian,  
and Eurasian Studies  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

illiberalism  
Studies Program

[Subscribe Now](#)

Illiberalism Studies Program  
Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES)  
Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University  
1957 E Street, NW | Suite 412 | Washington, DC | 20052  
(202) 994-3368 | [illibstudies@gwu.edu](mailto:illibstudies@gwu.edu) | [illiberalism.org](http://illiberalism.org)  
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)  
[Join our mailing lists](#)