

illiberalism | NEWSLETTER

Studies Program

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

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Research Projects



Upcoming event:



Wednesday, October 20, 2021
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EST)

Elżbieta Korolecuk will present her new book, co-authored with Agnieszka Graff, *Anti-Gender Politics in the Populist Moment*, which charts the new phase of global struggles around gender equality and sexual democracy: the ultraconservative mobilization against "gender ideology" and feminist efforts to counteract it.

[More information](#)

The Journal of Illiberalism Studies Summer 2021

In this first issue of the Journal, Julian G. Waller advances his own definition of illiberalism as "a strain of political culture that opposes philosophical liberalism, chafes against center-hierarchical political institutions, and promotes a variety of collective, majoritarian, national-level, and culturally integrative approaches to contemporary political society" and tests it on the ground of Russia's illiberal lowertier elite and institutions. Giovanni Savino looks at how the Italian far right, the Salvini-led national-populist movement, and myriad COVID deniers opened new venues for cooperation in the midst of the sanitary crisis and its lockdown policies, deeply reshaping the conspirational mode of Italian public opinion. Stéphane François investigates the myth of the new knight used by the French radical far right to romanticize the Middle Ages and project a civilizational war in which a new White elite would rescue Europe from Islam. Finally, a cluster led by Andrey Makarychev, with articles by Michael Cole and Sami Siva, explores the new research field of visual politics, highlighting its contribution to research on illiberalism through discussion of biopolitics, sovereignty, governmentality, and border politics.



[Read the full issue](#)

Online Publications



Unexpected Friendships: Cooperation of Ukrainian Ultra-Nationalists with Russian and Pro-Kremlin Actors

Taras Tarasiuk and Andreas Umland on the paradoxical contacts between Ukrainian far-right parties such as Svoboda, the National Corps, the Right Sector, and Bratstvo on one side, and Russian and Russia-related actors on the other.

Far-Right Group Made Its Home in Ukraine's Major Western Military Training Hub

Oleksiy Kuzmenko on how the far right group Centuria penetrated Ukraine's main military academy and could have benefited from Western military training assistance.



Agora

Jürgen Rüländ on illiberalism in South East Asia

Jürgen Rüländ on charismatic Christianity in the Philippines, Duterte's populism, and transnational illiberal ties in ASEAN.



Emre Erdoğan and Tuğçe Erçetin on populism in Turkey

Emre Erdoğan and Tuğçe Erçetin on the AKP, the construction of "we-ness" in Turkish society, and populism in Turkey.

Elżbieta Korolecuk on gender and politics in Poland

Elżbieta Korolecuk on the roots of illiberal civil society in Poland, the role of the Catholic Church, and gender politics.



Aron Buzogány explores the growth of ideas and networks which have produced a counter-narrative to liberal and neoliberal ideology in Hungary and Poland. He suggests that [an increase in the influence of conservative networks in the public sphere](#) was the primary driver.

Sharon J. Yoon and Yuki Asahina discuss the resurgence of [right-wing activism in Japan](#) by means of anti-Korean sentiment. They focus on the anti-Korean movement, Zaitokukai, and their ideological opportunism suggesting that the group is an example of the role far-right groups play as ideological entrepreneurs.

A new book by Damir Kapidžić and Věra Stojarová provides a country-by-country breakdown of the [increase in illiberal politics in Southeast Europe](#). They also examine recent events and how the practice of illiberal politics undermines various democratic institutions, such as media freedom, or electoral institutions.

Julia Rone, explores how Viktor Orbán's brand of [conservatism illiberalism has served as an ideal for several Bulgarian political parties](#). Rone emphasizes the importance decommunization had on Bulgarians' susceptibility and their relationship with the EU which involves currying favors only to continue to support policies contradictory to EU values.

Tim Heinkelmann-Wild, Andreas Kruck, and Benjamin Daßler examine the [role of the Trump administration in the decline of the Liberal International Order](#). By turning against many of the multilateral institutions that the international order relies on, the United States' distances itself from the liberal international order, putting liberal hegemony at risk.

George Newth examines how xenophobia, nationalism, racism, and racialization [contribute to Nativist discourse](#), the differences between nativism and populism, and how it can be used by parties beyond the far right.

Maria Bakardjeva explores the role of digital grassroots and media in the [propagation of illiberal ideologies in Bulgaria](#). Although much is known of digital grassroots activism by more progressive organizations, Bakardjeva's study sheds light on how illiberal groups employ digital media to appropriate certain discourses, construct collective identities, and garner support.

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.

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