



## Call for postdoctoral application on illiberalism

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

**illiberalism**  
Studies Program

### Postdoctoral Associate opportunity

The Illiberalism Studies Program is pleased to announce the availability of a postdoctoral position.

The appointment will be for a one-year term beginning September 1, 2022 and ending August 31, 2023.

**Application Items Requested:**

- Cover Letter
- CV
- Dissertation abstract (up to three pages, singled spaced)
- A sample of written work (Ph.D. chapter, article, blog, etc.)
- Names of two references (No letters of recommendation requested)

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## Previous events

### Gendering Illiberalism

Andrea Pető aims to analyze the complex relationship of gender and illiberalism, discussing reasons why both illiberalism and the category of gender are difficult to grasp. Doing so she engages with previous research on gender pointing out what has been missed. She argues that gender works as “symbolic glue” for illiberal states.

### The Challenge of Ethnopolitism and Authoritarian Rule in Europe

Milada Anna Vachudova looks at why ethnopolitism has become such a challenge to liberal democracy in Europe, and how opposition parties and civic movements have responded. She also explores how Russia's war against Ukraine is changing political contestation related to liberal democracy and to relations with Russia in key states including Poland and Germany.

### Illiberalism in Latin America

To contribute to a better understanding of the ways illiberalism is developing in Latin America both as politics, grassroots movements, and ideology, GW's Illiberalism Studies Program and the Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Program organized a workshop on the topic.

## Publications

### Social Norms and Gender Roles: Sex Education in Kazakhstan

Karlygash Kabatova on why sex education in Kazakhstan is limited by social and gender norms among youth.



### Georgia's Illiberal Forces: Political Polarization against Democracy

Zarina Burkadze on the slow illiberal shift of Georgia and how the Georgian Orthodox Church and the far right contribute to it.



### The Politicization of Domestic Violence in Azerbaijan

Nisa Ismayilzade on the issue of domestic violence in Azerbaijan and its politicization.



### Vox, Nativist Rhetoric, and Ukrainian Refugees

Cian Deegan on the nativist positions and rhetoric of Spain's Vox as a force in considering Ukrainian refugees



### The Sweden Democrats as an Example of the Mainstreamization of the Far Right

Madison Rousseau on mainstreamization of the far right through the case study of the Sweden Democrats.

## Agora

### Aurelien Mondon and Aaron Winter on Illiberalism and Reactionary Democracy

Aurelien Mondon and Aaron Winter on challenging the idea that liberalism always opposes far right ideas and the need for challenging claims of objectivity and neutrality in research on the far right.



Drawing parallels with Hungary, Miroslaw Michal Sadowski argues that the centralization of power from Hong Kong to mainland China has pushed the Special Administrative Region away from liberal democracy **toward authoritarian illiberalism**. He points to the onset of COVID restrictions as an opportunity that government actors capitalized upon to implement illiberal legislation.

Looking at the Rassemblement National and Marine Le Pen, Daniel Rueda shows how political parties and actors **use history to shape narratives** and the importance of understanding the study of history not in the abstract but as a source for far-right parties to signify historical events and figures.

Ezter Kovats focuses on the **individualist turn in gender theory and politics** arguing that understanding the trend can shed light on how right-wing and anti-gender messaging resonates among segments of the European electorate.

Didem Unal explores Muslim feminist counter-discursive activity in Turkey and argues that their resistance **against right-wing populist gender politics** generates a new “political project” directed at bringing about social change.

Maciej Skrzypek conducts a comparative analysis between Austria, Finland, and Sweden looking at how elites use militant democracy means to combat anti-democrats. He argues that **neo-militant democracy regulations were adopted** effectively protecting freedom of speech and press.

Focusing on foreign media outlets and their reporting on the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection, Robert S. Hinck suggests that the protest paradigm provides only partial insight and fails to account for **non-democratic countries' media coverage of the event**.

Anthony Lawrence A. Borja proposes and dissects an **index of illiberal political values** based on a reverse engineering of political illiberalism from existing works on illiberal democracy, political intolerance, and the normative philosophy of political liberalism.

*For 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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