

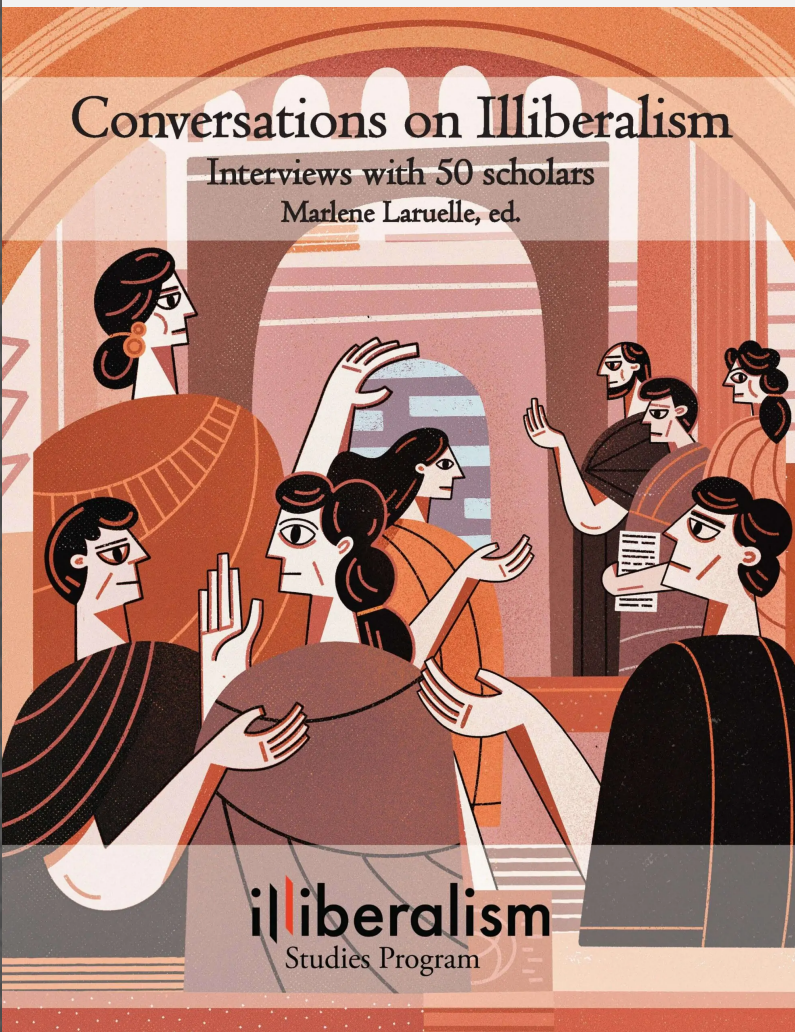
# illiberalism NEWSLETTER

Studies Program

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

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## Open access book



### Conversations on Illiberalism: Interviews with 50 Scholars.

Download our new edited volume, a collection of interviews conducted by Marlene Laruelle as part of our Agora series.

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## Publications

### **The Transnational Networks of the European Radical Populist Right and the Beacon of Hungarian Illiberal Democracy**

Jean-Yves Camus on the two competing caucuses of radical right parties in Europe and the tactical as well as ideological issues that have, so far, prevented unification of the radical right from becoming a reality.



### **The Many Faces of Eric Zemmour: Conservative, Populist, or Illiberal?**

Aaron Irion on how neatly Eric Zemmour's policy proposals and rhetoric permit observers to label him as conservative, populist, or illiberal.

### **Playing into Their Hands: Big Tech, Russia, and Conflicting Interests**

Grant A. Silverman on how Big Tech has responded to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and how Russia has used these responses to further its disinformation campaigns



## Agora

### **Marc Lazar on French and Italian politics and peoplecracy.**

Marc Lazar on the French far right and far left, peoplecracy and its distinction from populism, and the transformations of the Italian extreme right.



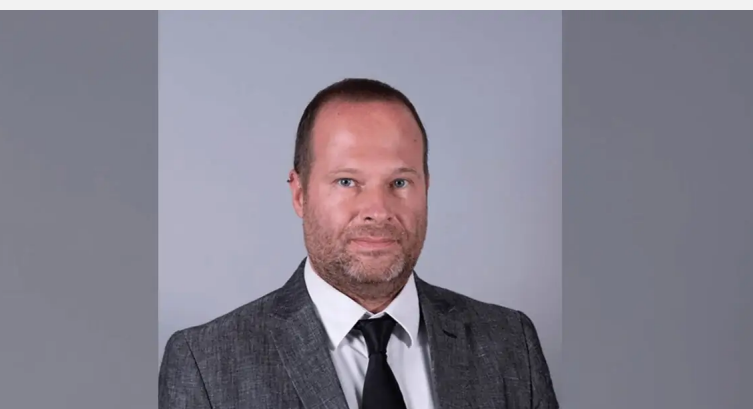
### **Halil Yenigun on illiberalism and authoritarianism in Turkey**

Halil Yenigun on Turkey's authoritarian shift, self-Orientalism, the use of post-colonialist discourse, and the demand side for illiberalism.



### **Jack Z. Bratich on Microfascism**

Jack Z. Bratich on the less perceptible qualities of fascism, kinds of antifascist feminism, and the intersection between neopolitics and conspiracy theories.



### **Vit Hloušek on illiberal trends in Central Europe**

Vit Hloušek on illiberal trends in Central Europe, the leadership of Andrej Babiš in Czech Republic, and the personalization of Central and Eastern European presidencies

### **Bruno Tertrais on Geopolitics and the Past**

Bruno Tertrais on the role of the past in contemporary society and how global actors use the past to frame the events of today.



Karl Kitching **unpacks** public controversies over LGBT-friendly school policies, focusing particularly on how Muslims in Western countries view the issue and how they are viewed in turn. Kitching contends that neither arguments for, nor against, LGBT-inclusive policies are properly secular. Instead, he introduces a Critical Secular approach and concludes that stakeholders wield secularism strategically to advance their own goals.

Hossein Kermani **examines the rhetoric** of former Iranian president Hassan Rouhani during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the response to it by powerful clerics and the Iranian public more broadly. He concludes that, in an attempt to sidestep the hegemonic discourse, Rouhani intermittently used populist rhetoric to woo the public while simultaneously trying to appease the conservative establishment, an endeavor that failed to achieve its goal.

In an attempt to create an **integrative theoretical framework** of Right-Wing Populism, S. A. Hamed Hosseini et al. address the current theoretical inconsistencies in the populism literature, especially around populism's social nature, social manifestations, and "nurtures." The authors conclude by arguing for a synthesized conceptualization of populism structured around its macro-, meso-, and microlevels.

Adrian Pabst **points to populism's paradoxical features** before stressing its similarities with liberal technocracy, its supposed opposite. By emphasizing the "binary logic" that undergirds both phenomena, Pabst opens the door to examining varieties of populism, such as 'corporate populists,' rather than thinking of populism as a single, unified, concept. He concludes by arguing for fundamental institutional reform that devolves power and wealth to people, and therefore undermines populism's appeal.

Andrey Shcherbak **examines Russia's "conservative turn"** which began in 2012. Using data from the European Social Survey, he offers a novel four-factor model for measuring popular conservatism in Russia based on Loyalism, Conformity, Religiosity, and Traditionalism/Security. Shcherbak concludes that conservative attitudes spiked in 2014–2016 and declined thereafter.

Ivan Kalmar **unpacks Central Europe's "illiberal revolt"** in a new book, arguing that Central European illiberalism is a misguided response to global neoliberalism and the region's transition to capitalism in the 1990s. He illuminates the dismissive attitudes of some Western Europeans towards Central Europe, labeling the phenomenon a form of racism, and investigating the similarities between racism towards Central Europeans and the racism of Central Europeans.

Aigoul Abdoubaetova **highlights the narratives of illiberal public activists in Kyrgyzstan**, focusing on three trends in their rhetoric: promoting strong anti-Western sentiments; combining Kyrgyz traditional values and ethnic identity with Islamic doctrines for a bigger impact; and actively using digital and social media and focusing on youth and informal education. Abdoubaetova pushes back on the notion that illiberalism in Kyrgyzstan is the result of Russian influence, arguing instead that it is a homegrown result of evolving re-traditionalization, growth of religious values, and anti-Westernism.

Mike Zapp **examines the relationship between populism and the public's view of science and scientism**. Zapp concludes that populism is a consistent predictor of declining support for science across all models, regardless of the political system.

Sanja Hajdinjak et al. edit a new volume **investigating the "illiberal turn" and Central European values**. The authors illuminate the forces behind the "illiberal turn" and point in particular to the global financial crisis and the European migration crisis as causes of the shift in values that in some ways led to, and coincided with, the turn to illiberalism in Central Europe.

Heino Nyyssönen and Jussi Metsälä question the utility of the term "illiberalism," and unpack the problematic phenomenon of political naming through conceptual history. Focusing on Hungary, **the authors describe how Victor Orbán's speeches, and his attempts to name his political system, interact with discussions concerning democracy**. They conclude that "naming" contributes to Orbán's ability to govern with very little regard for the opposition, and with his government's ability to consolidate power.

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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