



Deadline extension

JIS Call for Papers
ILLIBERAL MEMORY POLITICS

The *Journal of Illiberalism Studies* plans a special issue on "Illiberal Memory Politics" to discuss the illiberal turn of memory politics in several countries in the world. To help develop this subfield, launched by Andrea Pető and Gavriel Rosenfeld, the Journal welcomes articles that discuss memory wars and their illiberal tendencies in Central and Eastern Europe, memory battles and 'cancel culture' in the Global North, as well as more understudied places and trends of illiberal memory politics in the Global South. Articles may discuss memory politics under an illiberal regime, illiberal memory as promoted by some specific groups in politically liberal environments, and/or the concept of illiberal memory politics.

- Submission deadline: November 30, 2022
- Reviewing process: December 2022 - February 2023
- Publication: Spring 2023
- All JIS articles are available free online in an Open Access format.
- Selected articles will be offered an honorarium of 500 dollars.
- Articles should be submitted to illibstudies@gwu.edu

Submissions to the *Journal of Illiberalism Studies* special issue on Memory wars are now being accepted until **November 30!**

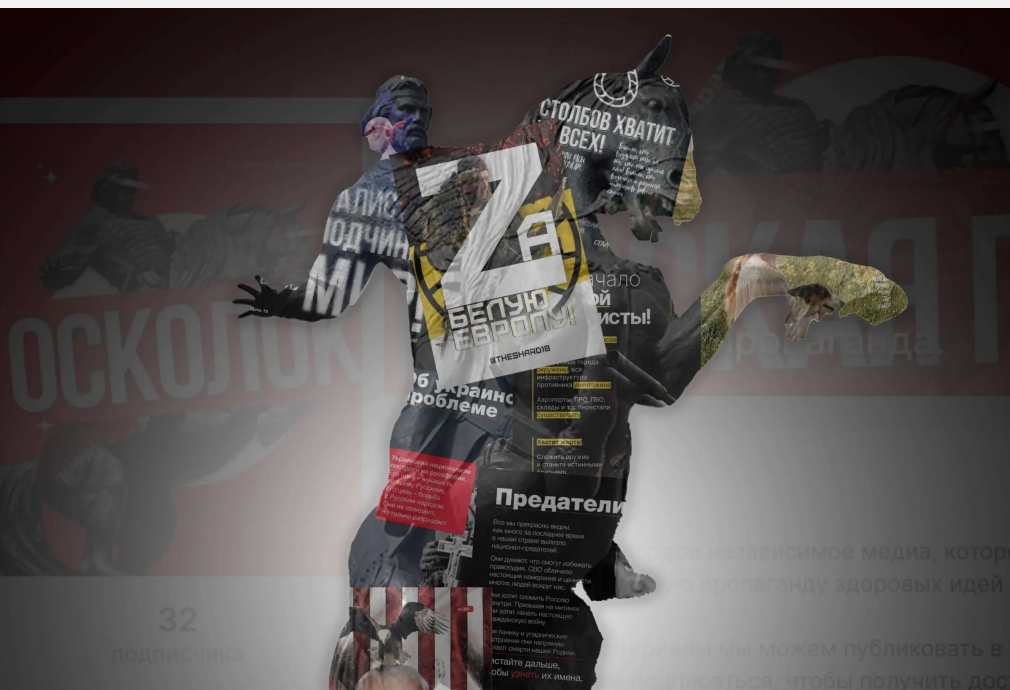
Publications

Socio-Ecology of the French Far Right: How the Far Right Rediscovered Ecology

Stéphane François on the French Far Right socio-ecology and its historical roots.

**"For White Europe": Russian Neo-Nazi Group's Embrace of Putin's War Rooted in Shared Illiberal Rhetoric**

David Mainor on how some Russian Neo-Nazi groups use the context of the war in Ukraine to reproduce and promote the Kremlin's narrative.

**The Political Enigma of El Peje: Taking Stock of Mexico's Populist Revolution Under Andrés Manuel López Obrador**

Alexander D. Dumm on the emergence and dominant presence of Mexico's Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

**The Psychology of Illiberalism**

Anna Kende on the psychological drivers behind the grassroots demand for illiberal policies.

**Still an East-West Divide? The Differential Treatment of Eastern European Migrants during COVID-19**

Magdalena Uleeluse and Felix Bender on the poor treatment of Eastern European migrant workers by Western European countries and their exclusion from social rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Between Marginalization and Instrumentalization: Anti-Eastern European and Anti-Slavic Racism**

Hans-Christian Petersen on anti-Eastern European and anti-Slavic racism in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.



Agora

Levente Littvay on Contending with and Measuring Populism

Levente Littvay on the need for empathy when trying to counter populist attitudes and the challenges of measuring populism across varying settings.



RESOURCE HUB

The Populism Interviews showcases interviews with some of the world's foremost scholars on populism. It analyzes different theoretical and historical perspectives on the nature of populism and comments on populism's relationship with global developments like environmentalism, as well as its relationship to institutions like the media and the welfare state.

Through a case study of Poland, Aleksandra Dziegielewska **unpacks** how states use international law to justify democratic backsliding and illiberalism domestically. Specifically, she shows how the Polish Constitutional Tribunal skirts legal compliance by "abusively interpreting well-established concepts of international law," a strategy she calls mimicry. After outlining the contours of this illiberal strategy, Dziegielewska outlines a framework for rejecting the legitimacy of mimicry, with particular focus paid to how institutions like the European Court of Justice and the European Union can push back.

Fabio Wolkenstein **examines** how conservative nationalists revived the idea of a "Christian Europe" to justify their illiberal political projects. By contrasting the present ideational manifestation of "Christian Europe" with the use of the term by post-war Christian Democrats, Wolkenstein shows that the concept has become more modern, statist, and secular.

Using the Taliban's recapture of state power in Afghanistan as a backdrop, Fazal Elahi Bilal et al. **explain** why liberal democratic norms never took root in Afghan culture. The authors show that the American attempt to bestow liberal values on Afghanistan failed because these values were perceived as superficial by a population that did not benefit from them. The authors conclude that, for liberal values to spread, they must better take into account native culture, tradition, and compatibility.

Tomáš Dvořák **recounts** the Czech Republic's slide from a country "recently described as centrist and moderate" to one riddled with populism. He pinpoints the moment of rupture as the migration crisis which began in 2014. In doing so, he not only explains the Czech Republic's transformation from a country with politics primarily centered around economic distribution to one focused on ethnicity, but also shows how the nature of populism changes depending on the "dimensionality of political conflict."

In a **book** set to be released in 2023, Adam Sulikowski details how illiberal conservatives in Central and Eastern Europe transformed their constitutional systems by co-opting tactics and methods originally employed by left-wing actors. Sulikowski stresses that, to combat these developments, more than a mere return to "a naive liberal faith in the nonpolitical" is needed. Instead, he proposes advancing toward an agonistic democracy in which the political is embraced.

Aron Buzogány et al. **illustrate** how democratic backsliding and illiberalism in Hungary has impacted the environmental movement in the country. The authors conclude that the "closure of political opportunity structures," via the weakening of opposition parties and professionalized NGOs, sowed alienation and mistrust in the movement and resulted in a turn towards 'localization' and away from national politics and action.

Marko Lovec et al. **show** that the failure of the European Union to live up to its values and expectations pushed the Slovenian political spectrum, from left to right, to embrace different forms of populism. These forms are explored in detail, showcasing a right-wing populism that defines itself in opposition to the E.U.'s progressive cultural agenda and a left-wing populism that defines itself in opposition to the E.U.'s alleged neoliberalism.

Boris Knorre and Tobias Koellner **introduce** a special edition of *Religions* by reviewing and analyzing the literature on patriotism, nationalism, and illiberalism in relation to religion. The authors unpack the relationship between religious fundamentalism, nationalism, and authoritarianism before concluding that the religious are not predisposed to having a stronger affinity for nationalism and authoritarianism than their secular or atheist counterparts.

Daniel S. Leon **details** how populists capture economic rents to grow and maintain their power, before showing that different kinds of rents affect processes of democratic backsliding differently. Leon explains that rents that stem from natural resource extraction worsen processes of democratic backsliding, while rents from remittances mitigate democratic backsliding.

Zea Szebeni and Virpi Salojärvi **examine** the visual communication methods that Hungary's Viktor Orbán employed during his tenure. They find that, in an effort to maintain the "authoritarian populism" and illiberalism that characterizes his regime, Orbán projects nationalism and masculinity while simultaneously embracing the role of "ordinary man" and statesman. Most importantly, the authors show how communication from Orbán's personal social media account varies from the communication strategy of his Hungarian government, by "outlining 'us' in ethno-nationalistic terms" to "strengthen his party's message, renew its hegemonic position, and to remain in power."

Jeffrey Friedman edits a new book, *New Perspectives on Populism*, which includes twelve scholars' perspectives on populism around the world. The authors offer different ideas about the nature of populism ranging from characterizations of populism as a reaction against technocracy, to populism as a form of technocracy, or a manifestation of class norms, among many other categorizations. The book's greatest contribution is its commitment to understanding "populists on their own terms rather than reducing populism to a psychological or structural phenomenon."

Zoltán Ádám and Iván Csaba **illustrate** how Hungary's response to the COVID-19 pandemic embodies the environmental movement in the country. Though it was happening before, the authors argue that the pandemic enhanced the opportunity for Orbán's Hungary to "generate democratic legitimacy for dismantling the institutional foundations of liberal democracy and the rule of law." Specifically, the Hungarian government used the emergency powers it had seized to fight the pandemic to "control public discourses" and "curtail the financial resources of opposition-led local governments," thus making its power even less restrained than before.

Alvaro Oleart and Tom Theuns **analyze** the European Commission's response to democratic backsliding in EU member-states. They argue that the Commission's response falls flat because it is based on a vision of democracy akin to 'democracy without politics,' and is therefore overly technocratic, legalistic, and ineffective. To counter this, the authors suggest that a more effective strategy would be based on a "more attractive conception of democracy" that prioritizes "political pluralism, agonistic contestation and the vibrancy of civil society."

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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