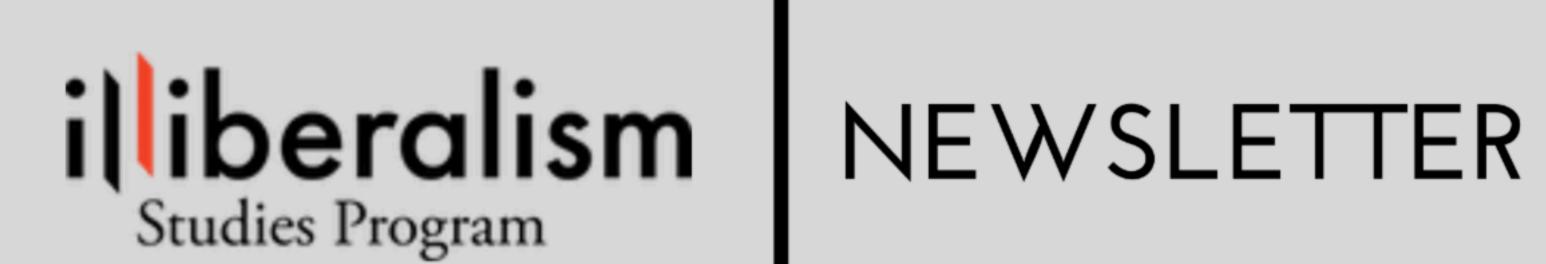
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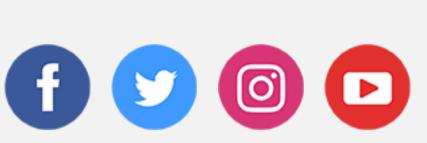
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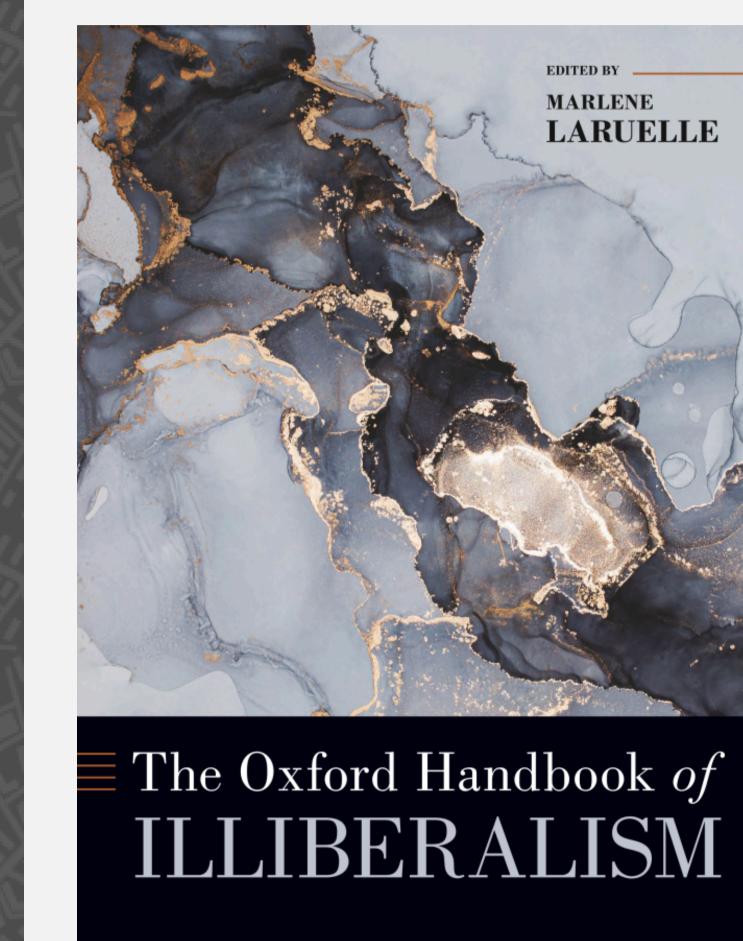
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Issue 39 | April 2024 | www.illiberalism.org





The Oxford Handbook of Illiberalism



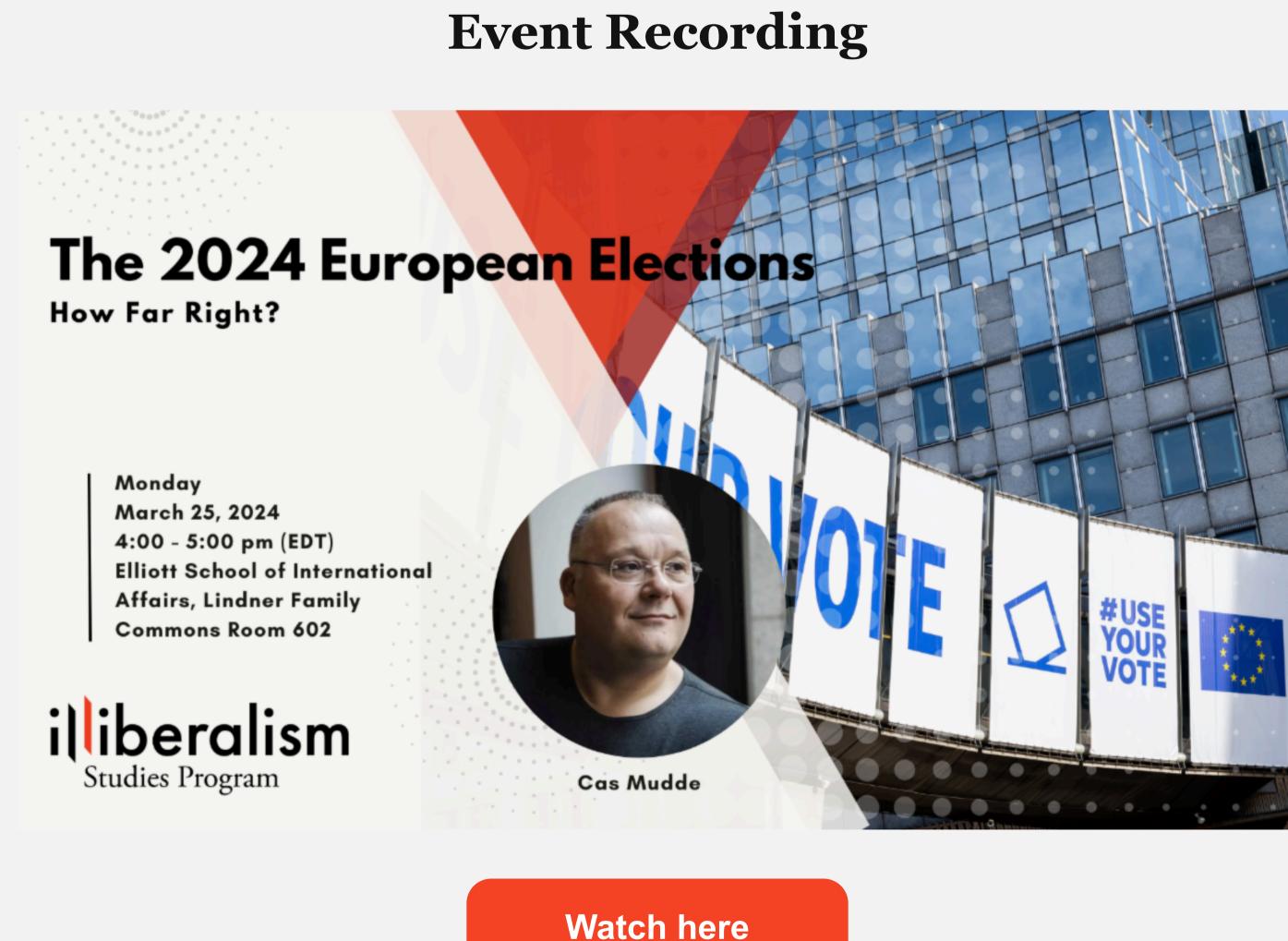
The Oxford Handbook of Illiberalism, edited by Marlene Laruelle, establishes a theoretical foundation for the study of illiberalism and showcases state-of-theart research on this phenomenon in its varied scripts—political, economic, cultural, and geopolitical. Bringing together the expertise of dozens of scholars, the Handbook offers a thorough overview that characterizes the current state of the field and charts a path forward for future scholarship on this critical and quickly developing concept.

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Marlene Laruelle on why the Russian elections matter, even if they are not democratic, and what they tell us about the Russian regime and Russian society.





Joseph Cerrone on Nazione Futura's visit

to the United States for CPAC and what it represents for the internationalization of the far right.



Marlene Laruelle, Joseph Cerrone, and Erik

<u>Italian Far Right</u>

Piccoli on the tension between segments of the Italian far right and the Meloni government over geopolitical issues.



Carolyn Gallaher on the Alt-

right, White Identity Politics, and America's Militia **Movements** An interview with Carolyn Gallaher about the

movement, Trumpism and more.



Alt-right's identity politics, the American militia





mainstream is at risk of losing control over the liberal concepts—equal rights, diversity, tolerance, etc.—that are the essence of their vision of liberal democracy. Elgar's Research Handbook on Authoritarianism provides a comprehensive overview of the latest knowledge on authoritarian regimes. It combines quantitative analysis with unique case studies and provides novel insight into past and current dictatorships, but also forecasts potential new developments in authoritarian politics.

very foundations of liberal democracy itself. Through an analysis of hot-button issues like

immigration, Islam, race, and COVID-19, contributors demonstrate that the political

Elgar's *Research Handbook on Populism* brings together a diverse range of academics to provide a detailed and comprehensive overview of the developing field of populism research. The Handbook unpacks and problematizes populism's key concepts, provides space for differing theories and disciplinary approaches to studying populism, highlights key thinkers and regions of study, outlines research challenges, and more. Eric Helleiner argues that economic globalization is experiencing a polycrisis, i.e., "a cluster of distinct crises that interact in ways that they and/or their effects tend to reinforce each other." Helleiner turns his attention to five of the polycrisis' constituent crises: the breakdown in US-China economic relations; the crisis in global health; the

crisis in international security; the global environmental crisis; and the crisis of democracy. In doing so, he highlights the seriousness of the crisis facing economic globalization, while contributing to the clarification of the polycrisis concept itself. Mike Cronin contextualizes the study of populism within longer-standing debates about fascism, and its definition and characteristics. Cronin first argues that scholarly debates about populism have undergone a similar trajectory to those that came to dominate fascism studies, Then, he assesses how populist politicians have integrated sports

(particularly football/soccer) into their message. The article demonstrates that sport is "a

highly flexible and easily mobilized political tool, and while it is important to understand

populism in the contemporary political context, the article argues that populist politicians

are part of a long tradition of strongman manipulation of sport." Acknowledging that anti-immigrant backlash can enable threats to democracy itself, Zsolt Kapelner asks whether policymakers should try to avert this threat by implementing a more restrictive immigration policy. Doing so exposes immigrants to injustice and exclusion, but not doing so risks "democratic dysfunction, even democratic failure." Kapelner calls this the Democratic Dilemma for immigration policy and argues that it is "a hard ethical dilemma that does not lend itself to a straightforward resolution" Kapelner then proposes a novel framework for assessing possible policy responses to the Dilemma.

Arie M. Kacowicz disaggregates the rise and decline of the Liberal International Order

(LIO) from the birth and evolution of International Society (IS). Kacowicz draws out

conceptual differences between the two concepts—paying special attention to their

commonalities as well— and provides a historical review of each's evolution, before

turning to contemporary challenges to each, some that overlap and some that are distinct to one or the other. This opens up a discussion about the role that China and the Global South will play in the future of the international order. Wade M. Cole et al. take stock of recent illiberal challenges to the liberal international order, paying particular attention to how these challenges affect human rights practices in direct and diffuse ways. Using regression models of human rights scores for 158 countries from 1980 to 2018, they find that countries linked to liberal international organizations have higher scores on measures of human rights practices. Conversely, recent illiberal

challenges have the opposite effect—"Countries linked to illiberal intergovernmental

organizations are less respectful of human rights, and the global rise of illiberalism

undermines human rights.'

illiberal democracy or toward epistocracy.

Christine Nissen and Jakob Dreyer use Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the European Union's coordinated response backing Ukraine, as a jumping-off point to assert that the EU is becoming a "sceptical liberal actor." This entails a tragic view of the international order, a self-critical understanding of Europe's role in it, and a newfound willingness to intervene, militarily and otherwise, to tackle political predicaments. Nissen and Dreyer juxtapose this skeptical liberalism with Europe's previously "optimistic liberal approach" that prioritized mediation and interdependence. Ultimately, they conclude that "liberal ideals remain intact, but a sceptical outlook implies different actions to pursue those ideals."

Europe's Democracy Blind Spots surveys the state of democracy in Europe, using the

upcoming European Union elections as a backdrop. The report intervenes in a debate that

is often dominated by concerns regarding the rise of far-right movements; a fact that the

authors claim "risks blinding us to deeper issues of democratic renewal that are critical for European prosperity and security." Comprised of eleven chapters, themes include democratic design, climate politics, gender equality, anti-corruption, and much more. Hanan Qazbir undertakes a comparative study focused on how European executives have been strengthened at the expense of the legislative branch and the people. The study finds that various European governments, across starkly different contexts, have increasingly consolidated power in the executive branch. However, "the existence of atypical practices across governments helps to qualify the impression of widespread convergence." Qazbir ultimately suggests that democratic regimes are moving in one of two directions: toward

government in Western Europe. Baldini finds that, while the party and its leader Giorgia Meloni have their roots in post-fascism and have espoused illiberal beliefs, in recent years Fratelli can be characterized by its mainstreaming, its moderation, and the toning down of its most potent populist rhetoric. In government, the party has "indulged in some illiberal practices, without activating an authoritarian dynamic," and in general its pragmatism has taken précedence over its identity. However, Baldini warns that "it is still possible that Meloni will take Italy down the road of democratic backsliding, by altering the delicate balance of inter-institutional accountability." Neil Matthews examines the close relationship between Northern Ireland's Democratic

Unionist Party (DUP) and Donald Trump. Matthews first looks at what the DUP and

Gianfranco Baldini details the historical trajectory of Fratelli d'Italia, the leading coalition

partner in Italy's government and the only populist radical right party leading a

Trump share in common—'Orangeism', their stance on Brexit, illiberalism, and populism —before assessing Trump's impact on the behavior and development of the DUP. He finds that Trump's election inspired a populist revival within the DUP, one that impacted the party's modernization project and fueled "a greater cognizance of the DUP's populist credentials and ongoing scrutiny of the factional tensions within it, tied as those are to the prospects of political unionism." Gábor Halmai dissects the state of constitutional democracy in Viktor Orbán's Hungary. Halmai suggests that liberal constitutionalism has suffered since Orbán's return in 2010 and that the instrumentalization of history and memory politics has enabled this. Rather than allowing a public discussion of history, and of the transition to democracy, the Hungarian government has tried to "renationalize" public discourse and co-opt historical

memory through the "creation of government-loyal research institutes, museums, newly

written school textbooks, the constant airing of national history themes on public media, renaming of streets, the construction and deconstruction of monuments," etc. This has

had troubling effects on democracy and the rule of law.

Marc Farrant scrutinizes the rise of "BrexLit fiction," i.e., 'fictions that either directly respond or imaginatively allude, to Britain's exit from the EU.' He suggests that BrexLit fiction "reflects a crisis not simply within but rather of the public sphere," differentiating it from 19th-century "state-of-the-nation" novels which used the novel form to intervene in Britain's public debates. This distinction allows Farrant to connect the limits of the liberal literary tradition with the limitations of liberalism writ large, at least vis-à-vis its capacity to respond to populism. However, he then claims that "BrexLit offers a generic framework for thinking through an alternative agonistic imagination; a way of thinking and writing that offers a way for redeeming an illiberal politics for progressive rather than reactionary

president from 2016 to 2022, and his government challenges conventional theories of why mobilization against autocratization can be limited. Those conventional theories—focused on repression, the abandonment of moderate tactics, and public support for strongman rule—do not seem to explain the lack of mobilization in the Philippines. The authors offer instead a relational explanation utilizing competing framing analysis. This allows them to explain how, in the absence of both crackdowns and public support, 'Duterte was able to tactically outmaneuver his opponents and "frame" human rights advocates as coddling criminals while he protected law-abiding Filipinos.'

Mark Thompson et al. suggest that the weak resistance to Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippine

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