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Call for Papers

Presented at an October 23rd conference on the Illiberal International

CALL FOR PAPERS THE ILLIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

The Illiberalism Studies Program at the George Washington University will host a conference on Thursday, October 23, 2024 on the topic of the transnational links of illiberalism. Through inter-party and interpersonal relationships, conferences, and caucuses, the international illiberal movement is increasingly looking beyond the narrow scope of national interests to form stronger movements that result in both intellectual and material assistance to each other.

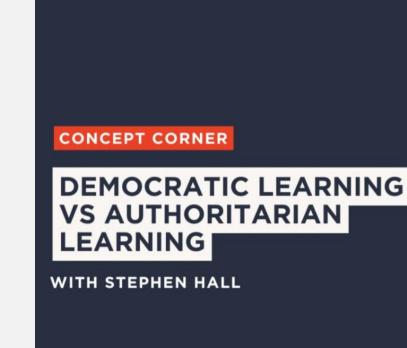
By exploring these transnational aspects, we can understand how illiberal initiatives, ideas, and actors transcend national borders and find a receptive audience; what vision illiberal actors have for society in the coming months and years; and what they share and borrow from each other to achieve their aims. Suggested topics for this conference include: institutional and personal international links, shared intellectual genealogies and cultures, collective action strategies, international religious and pro-traditional families networks. Articles resulting from the conference will be published as a special issue in the Open Access,

Please submit a title and a 250-word abstract to illibstudies@gwu.edu by March 1, 2024. Successful candidates will be notified by March 20, 2024. Travel, accommodation, and visa expenses will be covered.

peer-reviewed Journal of Illiberalism Studies.

More info here

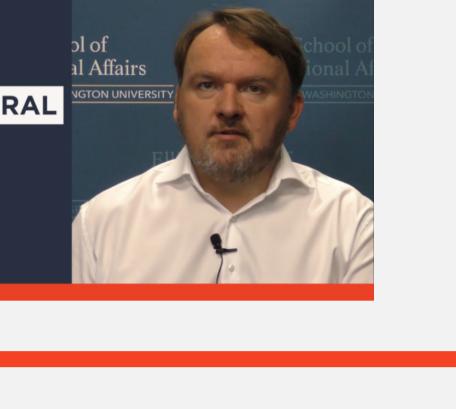
New Concept Corners Concept Corner is a series of short interviews with academics focused on a specific idea or concept.











Publications

Carl Schmitt and the Putin **Regime**

Erik Piccoli on assessing whether ideological links exist between Carl Schmitt's political thought and Vladimir Putin's Russia.





and the Longevity of **Chinese Empire** Jiantao Liu on the teaching of Carl

Schmitt in Chinese academic institutions and how his thought contributes to a political goal of realizing Chinese geopolitical supremacy.

Agora

Bradley Onishi on White Christian Nationalism, Trumpism, and January 6th

White Christian nationalism, its connection to conservatism and Trumpism, the January 6th insurrection, and more.

fundamental to the proper exercise of democracy."

Bradley Onishi on the history and character of





in liberal democracy itself.

RESOURCE HUB

Elizabeth Englezos examines the relationship between digital life and public spaces, arguing that digital space generates a 'false public' rather than a true public sphere. Digital spaces offer "transformative beliefs a voice while mob justice encourages sanctions against (and the erasure of) detractors," and is thus dangerous because this intolerance of opposing ideologies fragments public spaces into "macro- and micropublics." Englezos closes by arguing for "a return to both free expression and meaningful debate which are

weaponizing the issue of LGBTQ+ rights, arguing that "Political homo- and transphobia are used by illiberal governments as tools to mobilize constituencies by framing LGBTIQ rights as incompatible with traditional values." Using interviews and observations from international forums, the essay calls for a "nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between illiberalism, homo- and transphobia, and the challenge posed to the foundational values of liberal democracies," before offering ideas for how liberal democracies can better defend LGBTQ+ rights. Kurt Weyland suggests that, while populism can be fatal for democracy, the frequency of this outcome is less common than observers often submit. Weyland defends this claim by pointing to the fact that, among forty populist governments in Latin America and Europe from 1985 to 2020, only seven led to authoritarian rule. He thus concludes that alarmism

Phillip Ayoub and Kristina Stoeckl explore the global pattern of illiberal governments

opposition mobilization." Decisiveness and Fear of Disorder: Political Decision-Making in Times of Crisis investigates how democratic representatives make decisions during crises, using Germany's Asylum Compromise in 1992-1993 and the 2015-2016 refugee crisis as a case study. The author, Julius Rogenhofer, centers projections of decisiveness as key, noting that "As politicians confront fears of social and political disorder, they focus on appearing decisive in the eyes of the public and fellow representatives, even at the expense of human rights considerations and inclusive deliberation processes." Abstracting beyond his narrow case study, Rogenhofer suggests that his theoretical approach allows us to reinterpret a range of crises, from populist uprisings to disaffections with technocracy, to deeper crises

is not justified, as "democracy often shows considerable resilience, with most populist

leaders failing to suffocate liberal pluralism due to institutional checks, balances, and

European Union, focusing on key events and actors who shaped the process, the Croatian case in the context of current research on democratic backsliding, and an empirical test of democratic backsliding in Croatia. Their findings challenge the idea that democratic backsliding has occurred in Croatia since its EU accession. Rather, they find that, while increasing levels of democracy characterized Croatia's pre-accession period, its postaccession trajectory can better be described as democratic stagnation (as opposed to backsliding). Anna Grzymała-Busse poses the following question: Why are post-communist democracies not standing by a fledgling democracy (Ukraine) that is under attack by a dictatorship? Grzymała-Busse suggests that the answer lies in the material and political

benefits that individual politicians and political parties receive from Russia. This suggestion shows that the "immediate interests and profits of domestic politicians matter

Davor Pauković and Višeslav Raos survey Croatia's democratic trajectory since joining the

far more than the long shadows of history," highlighting that East-Central Europe is "now more remarkable for its divisions and contrasts than a collective past or a common future." Simon Mastrangelo and Leonie Mugglin question widely spread assumptions about the relationship between personal background and political commitments by showcasing the behavior of activists within the populist radical right-wing Swiss People's Party—known for its xenophobic discourses and its political agenda—who are themselves migrants or the children of migrants. The authors shed light on these activists' desires to become a 'deserving minority,' counterposed to others that they label 'undeserving migrants.' Mastrangelo and Mugglin impart the necessity of viewing these political engagements as

part of a broader quest for belonging to the Swiss national community.

Szegedi finds that, even though Hungarian youth are often against politics or apolitical, the MKKP's organizing methods attract young people to the party. However, these youth supporters differ from older supporters of the party in key ways: they are often more opposed to the political regime as a whole, rather than simply the ruling party; they are more involved in daily activities and the party's work; and ideologically they tend to view MKKP as a moderate political force, despite its dissatisfaction with the party system. These findings lead Szegedi to suggest that MKKP represents a "centrist radicalism." Benedetta Lobina reflects on a decade of democratic backsliding in Hungary and Poland that has, in addition to undermining democracy at home, affected the decision-making power and legitimacy of the European Union as a whole. Lobina uses this background as

context to explore their positioning vis-à-vis Russia's war on Ukraine, noting that the

countries' reactions—despite being diametrically opposed—have been equally damaging to

the EU rule of law. This is largely because "the war has highlighted major pitfalls in the

Using a survey with a large sample size, Péter Szegedi probes supporters of the Two-tailed

Dog Party (MKKP) in Hungary, often considered a "joke" anti-establishment party.

EU's policy toward backsliding governments, which continue to benefit from funds and veto powers, undermining the EU's effectiveness in the process." However, Lobina makes the case that "a renewed fight for democracy in Europe could offer the perfect opportunity to be tough on autocrats inside and outside the Union." Risa J. Toha and Cheryl N. Cosslett argue that—contra the conventional wisdom that educated middle classes are integral for modern democracies—very little is known about how educated professionals respond to democratic erosion. Using Indonesia as a case study, the authors conduct a discourse analysis of government and educated elites' discourses on democracy as democratic backsliding occurred between 2010 to 2020. They find that, while official pronouncements continued to support democracy, the government's actions were increasingly undemocratic. However, "materials produced by the country's educated middle class express[ed] increasing disenchantment" with the undemocratic actions of the government. Toha and Cosslett demonstrate that "rather than

standing with the ruling elites, the educated elite... respond to democratic erosion by resisting and criticizing illiberal measures and demanding greater protection of rights," thus highlighting the role that educated middle classes have in resisting democratic erosion. A'an Suryana discusses the intersection between Islamic populism and radicalism in Indonesia, charting the connections between radical Islamist groups and the populist Islamist 212 Movement. In doing so, the article illustrates why Islamist groups were effective mobilizers, why their influence declined, and ultimately why the 212 Movement dwindled. Drawing on the literature on populism, Suryana concludes that the movement faltered "because they could no longer play an instrumental role due to the unsupportive structure of political opportunities, disorganized social movement, less relevant framing, and greater social and political pressure to the social movement."

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 recentlypublished literature continues to document ongoing global trends of growing

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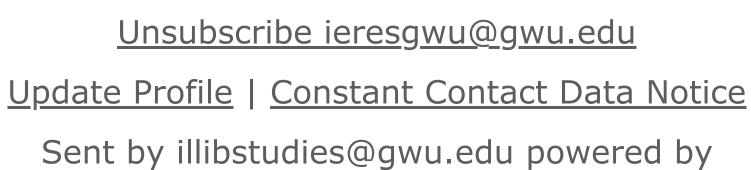
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