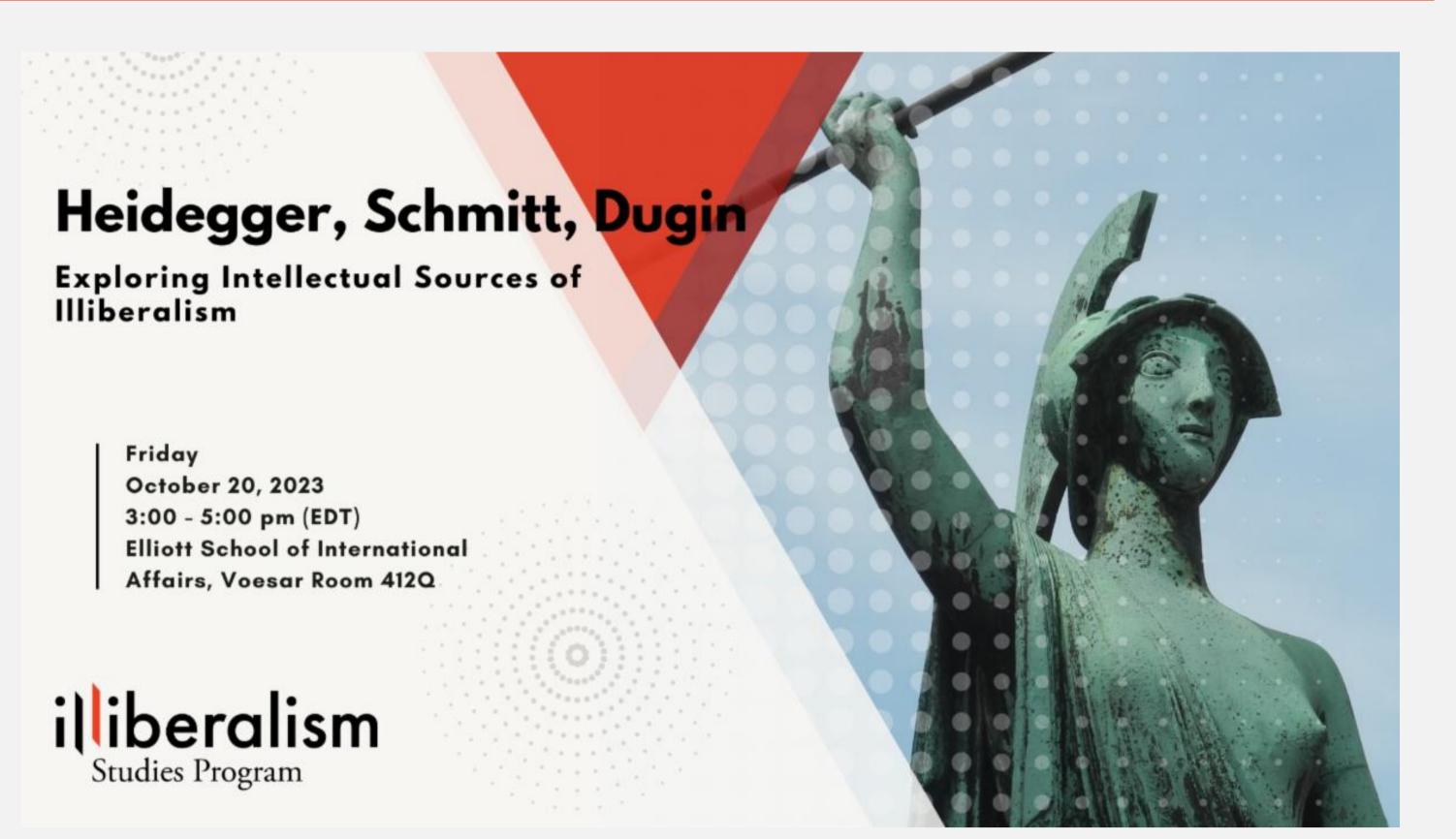




Inequality and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy with Sang Kyung Lee



Heidegger, Schmitt, Dugin: Exploring Intellectual Sources of Illiberalism

Publications

Javier Milei, the New Right and the Rise of Libertarian **Populism in Argentina**

Nicolás Saldías unpacks the rise of Javier Milei, the libertarian populist who was topping the polls ahead of Argentina's presidential election.



Normal but Serious: The Drift to Illiberalism on Britain's Right

Edmund Fawcett historicizes the UK motivations Conservatives' and philosophies, suggesting that the party's recent drift to the hard right may be less of a break than a phenomenon rooted in the through-lines of its own history.



Pension Reform? A Gift to the Far Right

Aaron Irion reflects on the six-month anniversary of France's pension reform. He compares it to a similar reform in Poland, showing how neoliberal pension reforms have emboldened the far right in both countries.



Agora

Yascha Mounk on Populism, **Critical Race Theory, and Defending Liberal Democracy**

Yascha Mounk on left and right-wing challenges to liberalism, the rise of populism, critical race theory, and defending liberal democracy from these contemporary threats.





Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way argue that democracy has been incredibly resilient in the twenty-first century, contra claims by some about a reverse wave of democratization or an authoritarian resurgence. The authors demonstrate that the vast majority of "third wave" democracies, i.e., those that democratized between 1975 and 2000, have proven resilient in large part due to economic development and urbanization as well as "the difficulty of consolidating and sustaining an emergent authoritarian regime under competitive political conditions."

In *After Nativism: Belonging in an Age of Intolerance*, Ash Amin ponders where there is a politics of belonging that progressive forces could mobilize to counteract the trend towards nativism. Amin argues that "disarming nativism will require more than improving the security and wellbeing of the 'left-behind." Rather, progressive forces need to combat nativism on the plane that it operates on, that of the imagined community, where meanings of belonging and voice are centered. To do this, Amin proposes a "relational politics of belonging premised on the encounter, fugitive aesthetics, public interest politics, collaboration over common existential threats, and daily collectives and infrastructures of wellbeing," arguing that this is fertile ground for progressives to mount a "counter-aesthetics of belonging" that can deter nativism.

In Update Liberalism: Liberal Answers to the Challenges of Our Time, contributors suggest that liberalism is under attack worldwide due to its association with "market radicalism, social coldness, and ecological ignorance," pushing it into a defensive crouch. The authors seek to show that liberalism as a school of thought is not dead and that a positive articulation of liberalism is still possible. They present ideas and approaches for new liberal concepts to cope with the great challenges of our time: from climate change, globalization and the digital revolution to transnational migration and the increasing systemic competition between democracies and authoritarian regimes.

Mattia Zulianello and Petra Guasti provide a comprehensive overview of the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and populism. On the demand side, Zulianello and Guasti center the interplay between populist attitudes and COVID-19 restrictions by assessing the role of conspiracy theories, social media, and alternative news media. On the supply side, they identify similarities and differences in the responses of populist actors globally. In doing so, they focus on the main ideational varieties of the contemporary populist phenomenon (right-wing, left-wing, and valence populism) while simultaneously distinguishing between populists in government and opposition. Their bottom line is that complexity is the defining feature of both the demand and supply sides of populism in times of pandemic.

Through a comparative analysis of Hungary and Austria, Pál Susánszky et al. interrogate the curtailing of political liberties that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. They seek to understand why citizens differ in their willingness to accept three types of political restrictions: restricting the media, banning protests, and introducing extensive state surveillance. They find that "perceived health threats, political values, ideological orientation, and political trust are important predictors of accepting political restrictions," but also whether any given measure is likely to affect a citizen directly. Moreover, they find that inter-country differences may be rooted in the larger polarization of Hungarian society, relative to its Austrian counterpart.

Didem Unal demonstrates how Turkey's illiberal AKP party uses populist discourse to securitize gender issues in the country. Unal shows that gender is operationalized at the national level as a fight over protecting the "pure" nation from the supposedly destructive effects of "gender ideology," while at the transnational level, it is operationalized as a protection of the Islamic nation from the "alienness" of the Judeo-Christian West. Unal thus stresses the centrality of anti-genderism in the construction of political frontiers, antagonisms, and threat perceptions in AKP's illiberal populist regime.

Matthew Stenberg and Conor O'Dwyer chart the spread of so-called "LGBT Free Zones" at the subnational level in Poland, seeking to understand when and where subnational governments adopted these discriminatory policies and where they did not. The authors first note the national-level backdrop of democratic backsliding under the illiberal Law and Justice (PiS) government, before showing that "local zones are most likely to be implemented through direct diffusion channels, where PiS officials hold municipal offices and where higher-level units (counties) also implement such zones." They thus contribute to an understanding of how government-led discrimination against minoritized populations can be operationalized at various levels of government, rather than the national level alone.

Alina Bargaoanu, et al. explore the relationship between illiberalism and various political and social factors in Romania, against the backdrop of a particular context: Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine. The authors note that illiberal, populist, and nationalist attitudes are rising in Romania, before endeavoring to understand the association between this rise and the presence of other attitudes, news consumption habits, and perceived exposure to misinformation. They uncover complex relationships between trust in institutions, attitudes towards Russia and Ukraine, news consumption habits, perceived misinformation, and demographic factors in shaping illiberal perspectives, suggesting that addressing illiberal tendencies in society requires a comprehensive understanding of the contributing factors.

Through a comparison of Rafael Correa in Ecuador and Viktor Orbán in Hungary, Blendi Kajsiu introduces a distinction between the employment of "the people" by nationalists and its employment by populists, arguing that the former constructs "the people" through positive identity practices while the latter articulates it through negative identity practices. It is argued that nationalism thus emphasizes who "the people" are, while populism defines "the people" primarily as "not elites," quite apart from whether or not they share any positive characteristics beyond their oppression, exclusion, and marginalization by said elites. The Ecuadorian and Hungarian case studies thus spell out important differences between populist and nationalist articulations of "the people" while also highlighting differences in the types of anti-system politics that have emerged in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Using Austria as a case study, Reinhard Heinisch and Annika Werner probe the role that populist attitudes play in subjective feelings of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and in choosing policies to counteract its spread. They suggest that populist attitudes may have led people to reject the – mainly elite-driven – policy-making process during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading those with populist orientations to reject policies meant to contain the virus. Through an empirical analysis, Heinisch and Werner demonstrate that populist attitudes do in fact affect the acceptability of policies to combat the spread of

COVID-19. Their findings indicate that populist attitudes have such strong effects on individuals' perception of the world that they even influence the perception of the globally shared challenge of a pandemic.

Teodoro Lloydon C. Bautista et al. examine fractures in the liberal democratic model in Southeast Asia, by way of an examination of populism and the retreat of globalization. They identify five trends that have deteriorated the democratic ethos in the region, such as inequality, natural disasters and pandemics, arms races, etc., and suggest that these empower strong populist leaders that push for radical reforms. They suggest that understanding these new models of political governance requires one to see them as uniquely Asian and outside the "colonial shadows" of North America and Western Europe.

Ali Riaz and Md Sohel Rana investigate the state of democracy in the comparative contexts of Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, and Pakistan. By combining data from Freedom House and the World Justice Project with insights from the academic literature, the authors show that all four countries have suffered from a democracy deficit for an extended period and that "there has been a disturbing trend of erosion in their democratic qualities during the 2010–2020 period." Riaz and Rana conclude however that these countries are neither politically closed authoritarian systems nor liberal democracies. Rather they are hybrid regimes, except Indonesia which is an electoral democracy.

Tom Ginsburg unpacks Israel's controversial judicial reform through the lens of anticorruption. Ginsburg argues that the, now-challenged, wide powers given to the Israeli judiciary arguably originate in policing corruption. He thus suggests that the current governing coalition's efforts to assert more control over the Supreme Court may be rooted in their desire to limit its anti-corruption powers, and hence empower their own ability to undertake actions seen as corrupt.

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