



3rd ECPR-OSCE/ODIHR

Summer School on Political Parties & Democracy

17-23 August 2020

ONLINE



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Welcome

Welcome to this seven-day intensive Summer School organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), under the auspices of the ECPR Standing Group on Central East European Politics and the support of the ECPR Standing Group on Political Parties. This Summer School, organized with the collaboration of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (Warsaw) and the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy: REPRESENT (University of Nottingham) brings together an international team of 9 academics and 9 practitioners to train and instruct a group of 23 MA/PhD researchers and practitioners and civil society leaders in the field of political parties and democracy.

The main aims of the Summer School include:

- to provide instruction and discussion on a wider range of analytical perspectives in the study of political parties, party systems, elections and democracy;
- to develop a multinational forum for both junior scholars and practitioners to critically discuss their research projects and the development of the subfield;
- to assist PhD researchers to develop their dissertation projects at the cutting edge of the field, contributing to innovation in conceptualisation, measurement, analysis and theory;
- to prepare PhD researchers for the requirements and criteria of international academic publishing, and to encourage them to submit their work to academic journals;
- to help practitioners to understand the main academic findings regarding party politics and democracy promotion;
- to build on the most recent developments of political party development and democracy promotion presented at most recent interdisciplinary International Conference in Birmingham (26-27 April 2018) and Brussels (18-20 June 2018);
- to stimulate international collaboration in the field of parties, party systems, elections and democracy and to encourage PhD researchers and practitioners to take part in such collaboration.



Summer School Program

Friday (14 August)

13.50-14.00	Online connection with participants
14.00-14.15	Welcome by Dr Marcin Walecki, Head of Democratization Department (OSCE/ODIHR) and by Dr Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)
14.15-14.40	Welcome by the Summer School co-directors
14.40-15.00	Virtual tour de table
15:00-15:30	Presentation of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek by Dr Alexander Wolters
15.30-16.00	Virtual ice-breaking activity

Monday (17 August) “Democratic Backsliding in the OSCE Region”

Speaker: Dr Anna Lührmann (V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg)

Guest Expert: Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)

11.00-12.30	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
12.30-13.30	“Insight from the Analysis of Political Trust in Parliament and other governmental institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic” (Chynara Isakeeva)
13.30-13.45	Break
13.45-14.45	“The role of the political elites in the political transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan” (Saniya Malikbayeva)
14.45-15.00	Wrap up and next session preparation

Tuesday (18 August): “Party System Institutionalization: Causes and Consequences”



Speakers: Prof. Zsolt Enyedi (Central European University) and Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (University of Nottingham)

Guest Expert: Dr Michał Kotnarowski (ISP PAN)

9.30-11.00	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
11.00-12.00	“Conceptual and empirical investigation of political parties” (Vera Tika)
12.00-13.00	Lunch break
13.00-14.00	“Political Supply and Demand Side of Serbian and Croatian Politics” (Uros Mamic)
14.00-15.00	“The party systems in Georgia and their significance in times of polarization” (Tatia Tchkoidze)
15.00-15.15	Wrap up and next session preparation

Wednesday (19 August)

Topic: “Political Parties and Diversity – Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities”

Speakers: Sasa Gavric, Augusta Featherston, Amila De Saram-Larssen, (OSCE/ODIHR, Warsaw, Poland)

Guest Expert: Agnieszka Kwiatkowska (SWPS University)

9.30-11.00	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
11.00-12.00	“Gender equity: women’s rights and agency in democratic Kyrgyzstan?” (Medina Abulkasymova)
12.00-13.00	Lunch break
13.00-14.00	“Feminization of Security in the Contemporary Central Asia” (Jemile Bashimova)
14.00-15.00	“Democratic innovations in promoting equal participation of women in security-related sphere” (Abira Kuandyk)
15.00-15.15	Break



15.15-16.15 “Roma Youth Active Political Participation - Element For Democracy”
(Karolina Ranković)

16.15-16.30 Wrap up and next session preparation

Thursday (20 August)

Topic: “Political Parties and Election Campaigning”

Speaker: Vladimir Misev (OSCE/ODIHR, Warsaw, Poland), tbc

Guest Expert: Emil Juraev (OSCE Academy) (tbc)

9.30-11.00 Debate and discussion with the guest speaker

11.00-12.00 “‘Strongmen’ versus ‘weak states’ in Central Asia” (Arzuu Sheranova)

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-14.00 “Political boycott in Albania 1991-2019” (Alban Nako)

14.00-15.00 “Imagined democracy? Elections and civil society in Tajikistan”
(Nosirkhon Qodirov)

15.00-15.15 Wrap up and next session preparation

Friday (21 August)

Topic: “Party Politics in the Age of Populism”

Speakers: Dr Lenka Bustikova (Arizona State University, USA) and

Dr Petra Guasti (Goethe University)

Guest Expert: Dr Mikołaj Czeński (SWPS University)

9.30-11.00 Debate and discussion with the guest speakers

11.00-12.00 “Effect of Radical Right Political Discourse on Mainstream Party
Competition” (Mila Moshelova)

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-14.00 “Identity Politics, International Influence, and Nationalist Vote Choice:
Experimental Evidence from Slovakia” (Roman Hlatky)

14.00-15.00	“Slovak Parties as the Bottleneck: Career Paths of Slovak Ministers and State Secretaries according to their Gender” (Silvia Hudackova)
15.00-15.15	Break
15.15-16.15	“The Effect of Democratic Maturity on Ideological Congruence: Comparative Study of Established and Newly Emerged Democracies” (Nino Petriashvili)
16.15-16.30	Wrap up and next session preparation
17:00-18:00	Virtual gathering of participants (optional)
<i>Saturday (22 August): “Party Funding, Transparency and Public Integrity”</i>	
<i>Speaker:</i> Dr Marcin Walecki (OSCE/ODIHR)	
<i>Guest Expert:</i> Jacopo Leone (OSCE/ODIHR)	
9.30-11.00	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
11.00-12.00	“GDPR as a New Tool for Covering Up Corruption: Evidence from Croatia” (Antonio Karlović)
12.00-13.00	Lunch break
13.00-14.00	“Mechanisms of improvement of the institute of state funding of political parties in Ukraine” (Yana Derkach)
14.00-15.00	“Public Funding of Ukrainian Political Parties and MPs” (Yuliia Holopoteliuk)
15.00-15.30	Special Session: “How to Get Published?” with Dr Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka (editor of <i>Politologia</i>), Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (co-editor of the Routledge Book Series on “Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections”), Dr Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)
15.30-15.45	Wrap up and next session preparation



Sunday (23 August)

Topic: “New Media and Society”

Speaker: Dr Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Poland)

Guest Expert: Krzysztof Izdebski (*E-Panstwo*)

9.30-11.00	Debate and discussion with the guest speaker
11.00-12.00	“Anti-Semitism and Political Parties: A Comparative Approach on Anti-Semitic Narratives in Europe” (Daniel Georghe)
12.00-13.00	Lunch break
13.00-14.00	“Migration and migrants – a scape goat and a bait of the election campaigns in Poland” (Katarzyna Templin)
14.00-15.00	Closing remarks and way forward



Logistical information

Dress-code

Dress-code for the School is smart-casual.

Technical details:

The Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy will be conducted in Zoom. The log-in information will be sent to all participants prior to the School. Please make sure to have sufficient internet connection and use private compute/laptop during the school. Participants are requested to log-in with personal names/surnames.

Video lectures will be uploaded to the closed YouTube Channel and it is mandatory to watch lectures prior to the sessions.



Reading list

Session 1

- Anna Lührmann, A. and Lindberg, S.I. (2019): A Third Wave of Autocratization is Here: What Is New About It?, *Democratization*, First View Online
- Waldner, D. and Lust, E. (2018): Unwelcome Change: Coming to Terms with Democratic Backsliding, *American Review of Political Science*, v. 21, pp. 91-133
- V-DEM Report (2019): Democracy Facing Global Challenges (<https://www.v-dem.net/en/>)

Session 2

- Casal Bértoa, Fernando (2018): “The Three Waves of Party System Institutionalization Studies: A Multi- or Uni-dimensional Concept?”, *Political Studies Review*, v. 16, n. 1, pp. 60-72
- Enyedi, Zsolt and Fernando Casal Bértoa (2018): “Institutionalization and De-institutionalization in Post-communist Party Systems”, *East European Politics and Societies*, v. 32, n. 3, pp. 422-450
- Casal Bértoa, Fernando and Zsolt Enyedi (2016) “Party System Closure and Openness: Conceptualization, Operationalization and Validation”, *Party Politics*, v. 22, n. 3, pp. 265-277

Session 3

- Anna Lawson (2007): The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: New Era or False Dawn, *34 Syracuse J. Int'l L. & Com.*, p. 563
- Thomas Carothers (2016): Democracy Support Strategies: Leading Women’s Political Empowerment, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace* (https://carnegieendowment.org/files/Carothers_Empowerment_Final.pdf)
- Mona Lena Krook and Pippa Norris (2014): Beyond Quotas: Strategies to Promote Gender Equality in Elected Office, *Political Studies*, v. 62, pp. 2–20 (http://mlkrook.org/pdf/ps_krook_norris_2014.pdf)
- Mark Priestley, Martha Stickings, Ema Loja, Stefanos Grammenos, Anna Lawson, Lisa Waddington, Bjarney Fridriksdottir (2016): The political participation of disabled people in Europe: Rights, accessibility and activism, *Electoral Studies*, v. 42, pp.1-9



Session 4

- TCC - Section 6, Election Obligations and Standards (<https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/democracy/cc-oes-handbook-10172014.pdf>)
- ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, 6th Edition (<https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439>)
- ODIHR/VC - Joint Guidelines for Preventing and Responding to the Misuse of Administrative Resources during Electoral Processes (<https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/227506?download=true>)

Session 5

- Bustikova, L. (2019): *The Established and the Ascendant. Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 2 (p. 18-68)

Session 6

- IDEA Handbook on Political Finance: Chapter 6. Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia (<https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/funding-political-parties-and-elections-campaigns-handbook-political-finance?lang=en>)
- ODIHR/VC - Guidelines on Political Party Regulation - all the sections dealing with party/campaign finance (<https://www.osce.org/odihr/77812>)
- OSCE Anti-corruption Handbook - Chapter 9 Political Party Funding (<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/232761>)
- Fernando Casal Bértoa and Ingrid van Biezen (2018): Introduction in *The Regulation of Post-communist Party Politics*. Abingdon/New York: Routledge (an electronic version can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21599165.2014.938738>)

Session 7

- Matuszewski, P. and Walecka, K. (2019): “Media Diet on Facebook During a Political Crisis: The Case of Judicial System Reform in Poland in 2017”, *Policy and Internet*; <https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.221>
- Kümpel, A.S. The Matthew Effect in social media news use: Assessing inequalities in news exposure and news engagement on social network sites (SNS) <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1464884920915374>

Biographies

Directors



Fernando Casal Bértoa is an Associate Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom). He is member of the OSCE/ODIHR “Core Group of Political Party Experts”. He is also co-director of REPRESENT: Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy. His work has been published in *Journal of Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Electoral Studies*, *West European Politics*, *Party Politics*, *Democratization*, *European Political Science Review*, among others. He was awarded the 2017 Gordon Smith and Vincent Wright Memorial Prize, the 2017 AECPA Prize for the Best Article and the 2018 Vice-Chancellor Medal of the University of Nottingham for “exceptional achievements”. His last book, titled *Party System Closure: Party Alliances, Government Alternatives and Democracy in Europe*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.



Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka is an Assistant Professor and the Head of MA studies on Politics in Cyberspace at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (UKSW) in Warsaw. She holds a PhD in Social and Political Science from the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. She was also a Chevening Scholar at St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford. Co-founder and co-leader of the business academic project/partnership *Political Radar*, which monitored and analyzed activity of political parties and political movements in Poland before and after the 2015 elections. She is also co-editor of Polish academic journal “Politologia”. Prior to turning to academia, she was elected as one of the youngest city councillor in Warsaw (three times in row), worked for the Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy at the European Parliament and for the United Nations’ Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York.

Speakers



Anna Lührmann is an Assistant Professor (biträdande lektor) at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Gothenburg and the Deputy Director of the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute. Prior to turning to academia, she was a Member of Parliament in the German National Parliament (Bundestag; 2002- 2009) and later worked in Sudan for two years. She received her PhD in 2015 from Humboldt University (Berlin) with a thesis on United Nations electoral assistance. She holds a M.A. degree in “Research Training in Social Sciences” from Humboldt University (Berlin), a M.Sc. degree in Gender and Peace Studies from Ahfad University (Sudan) and a B.A. in Political Sciences from FernUniversität Hagen (Germany). Her work has been published among others in the *Journal of Democracy*, *Electoral Studies*, *Democratization* and *International Political Science Review*.



Zsolt Enyedi is Professor at the Political Science Department of Central European University. He (co)authored two and (co)edited eight volumes and published numerous articles and book chapters, mainly on party politics and political attitudes. His articles appeared in journals such as *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Studies*, *Political Psychology*, *West European Politics*, *Party Politics*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *European Review*, etc. Zsolt Enyedi was the 2003 recipient of the Rudolf Wildenmann Prize and the 2004 winner of the Bibó Award. He held research fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Notre Dame University, NIAS, EUI, and Johns Hopkins University.



Saša Gavrić joined ODIHR as an Associate Gender Officer in July 2020. Before that, he has been working for the OSCE missions in Kosovo and North Macedonia. Saša is a passionate advocate, activist and agent of change with 15 years of experience in cultural diplomacy, human and minority rights, gender equality and democratic governance in civil society organisations, bilateral agencies and international organisations. He has (co-)authored and (co-)edited around 50 articles, book chapters, edited volumes and advocacy reports, focusing on political systems of the Balkans, federalism, gender equality and human rights.



Augusta Featherston serves as the Youth Focal Point in the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In this role Augusta develops and oversees ODIHR's youth political participation portfolio, implementing activities designed to assist OSCE participating States meet their commitments in supporting the active participation of young people in promoting democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. Prior to ODIHR, Augusta served as the technical lead on youth engagement at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) advising on youth-specific program design, and other global youth initiatives. She also has extensive experience working with various youth-serving organizations supporting young people in underserved communities in the United States through innovative literacy, technology, and leadership development programs. Augusta holds an M.A. in international development from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.



Amila de Saram is an Associate Democratic Governance Officer in the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In this capacity, she works with OSCE participating States to strengthen inclusive democratic institutions, such as parliaments and political parties. Amila's primary focus is on enhancing the political participation of persons with disabilities. Combining extensive communications and media experience focused on international development with a background in inclusive policy making, Amila believes in promoting inclusion and engagement by relying on diversity of people, perspective and experience. Amila holds bachelor's degrees in Economics and Romance Languages and Literatures from Mount Holyoke College and master's degrees in French and the History of Art from Middlebury College and the Ohio State University, respectively.



Vladimir Misev is currently ODIHR Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies and since 2015 has been serving as an Election Adviser and desk office for number of OSCE participating States, including the Russian Federation, Turkey, Belarus, Germany and UK. Previously, Vladimir worked on number of human rights and democratization projects in Europe and the Balkan region. He has been civil society activist, leading number of non-governmental organizations and has over 18 years of management experience. His background is in political science, EU affairs, multiculturalism and elections.



Clientelism”.

Lenka Bušíková is an Associate Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on party politics, voting behavior, clientelism, and state capacity, with special reference to Eastern Europe. She is the recipient of the 2015 APSA Best Article Prize for her article “Revenge of the Radical Right”, published in the *Comparative Political Studies*; as well as the 2017 APSA Best Paper Prize for her paper, co-authored with Cristina Corduneanu-Huci “Patronage, Trust and State Capacity: the Historical Trajectories of



representation, with a particular focus on the political representation of non-citizens in Europe. Her research focuses on the reconfiguration of the political landscape and evolves around three themes – populism, democratization, and representation. To date, Petra Guasti published 9 articles in impacted journals, 18 book chapters, one monograph, five edited volumes. Her research on comparative politics and representation has appeared in *Democratization*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *European Political Science*, *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, *Politics and Governance*, and elsewhere. Most recently, her scholarship was featured in the *Washington Post* ([The Monkey Cage, July 16, 2019](#)).

Petra Guasti is a researcher at the Research Unit Democratic Innovations, at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She received her doctoral degree in political science from the University of Bremen. She also previously earned a doctoral degree in political sociology from the Charles University in Prague. In March 2019, she completed an eight-month Visiting Democracy Fellowship at Harvard University’s Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. At the Ash Center, she concentrated on transformations in democratic



University of Warsaw. He is a former Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and a board member of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Finance and Political Corruption.

Marcin Walecki possesses over 15 years of democracy assistance and governance experience working in more than 30 countries around the world. He also presents regularly at international conferences, seminars, and has written for numerous publications on democratization, political corruption, political financing, elections, political parties, gender equality and good governance. A Polish citizen, Walecki holds a doctorate of philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a master's in Law from the Department of Law and Administration at the

Guest experts



Frankfurt an der Oder.

Alexander Wolters is Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. He has published on security and political developments in Central Asia as well as on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on Central Asian affairs in several universities in the region. As Director of the OSCE Academy, he has set the priority for the institute to develop research capacity and portfolio, among other issues on Chinese policy regarding Central Asia and on the BRI specifically. He holds an MA in Cultural Sciences and a PhD from European University Viadrina /



teacher of advanced statistical techniques, he regularly cooperates with ECPR Methods School, Université Catholique de Louvain and the SWPS University.

Michal Kotnarowski is a political scientist and sociologist employed in the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Institute of Political Studies of PAS. His research interests include electoral behaviour, comparative politics, political culture and methodology of social research. Michal co-authored two books and several articles and book chapters. He has published, among others, in *Party Politics*, *Acta Politica*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, as well as in *Studia Socjologiczne* (Sociological Studies) and *Studia Polityczne* (Political Studies). As a



legislative voting.

Agnieszka Kwiatkowska works as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities since September 2014 and a member of the Polish National Election Study team in 2015. Her research focuses on how issues raised by the social movements become politicized, introduced into parliamentary competition and become determinants of political behaviors. On the methodological side, she is researching mixed methods aggregating preferences on the social level and parliamentary arena, including parliamentary speeches and



Emilbek Dzhuraev holds a PhD in political science from the University of Maryland – College Park (USA), with a dissertation on republican constitutional theory and its application in developing societies. He is a Senior Lecturer in the MA program in Politics and Security at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. His research interests are in state-building, democratization and constitutional development in Central Asia as well as Central Asian foreign policies, security and geopolitics. He is a research fellow with the Bishkek Policy Group and Crossroads - Central Asia.



Mikolaj Cześnik is Associate Professor at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, where he directs the Institute of Social Sciences. He is a member of the Polish National Election Study. He chairs the International Political Science Association Research Committee 16 (Socio-Political Pluralism). He is also member of the Board of the Stefan Batory Foundation. He has participated in several international comparative projects, including CIVICACTIVE, COST, CSES, INTUNE, MARPOR, PIREDEU. His research interests include democracy and democratisation, elections, political and voting behaviour (especially voter turnout), political parties, socio-political cleavages.



Jacopo Leone has been working as a political analyst for over eight years in the field of democracy assistance and governance, with a strong focus on parliamentary strengthening, political party assistance, anti-corruption, public integrity, and civil society development. Currently working as a Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), he provides analyses of political developments and delivers assistance to OSCE participating States on democratic governance issues, with particular attention on strengthening integrity in parliaments and political party systems, promoting inclusive political institutions and youth and women's political participation. Before joining ODIHR, he worked among others for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, NATO, the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the European Parliament. Jacopo holds an MSc in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh.



Krzysztof Izdebski, board member and policy director of ePanstwo Foundation (EPF) and board member of Consul Democracy Foundation. Marshall Memorial Fellow. He is a lawyer specialized in access to public information and re-use of public sector information. He has wide expertise in relations between public administration and citizens. He is the author of publications on freedom of information, technology, public administration, corruption, and public participation including "Transparency and Open Data Principles: Why They Are Important and How They Increase Public Participation and Tackle Corruption" and recently published "alGOVrithms. The State of Play. Report on Algorithms Usage in Government-Citizens Relations in Czechia, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and Slovakia." He is also specialized in legal aspects of the prevention of corruption. In 2012-2018 he was a Local Research Correspondent for Poland in the European Commission Anti-Corruption project (Anti-Corruption report). He is also an Apolitical.co contributor. 27th on the Dziennik Gazeta Prawna daily list of 50 most influential Polish lawyers in 2019.

Participants



Saniya Malikbayeva is a Ph.D. student at the Autonomous University of Madrid. She graduated from Nazarbayev University with a bachelor degree in Political Science and International Relations. Saniya won an Erasmus + scholarship to study an 18-month-Master in Parliamentary Procedures and Legislative Drafting. She has spent three semesters in LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome Italy, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and University of London. She was researcher at the Center of Political and Constitutional studies in Madrid, Spain. During the research stay Saniya was preparing report on Spanish referendums for the Venice

Commission and organizing international conference on Fake news and Electoral justice. Her main research interests are challenges of democratization in the Post-Soviet space, legal-rational institutions, informal practices (patronalism, clientelism, patrimonialism), corruption and civil activism in this region.



Chynara Isakeeva works as an expert in the legislative department of the Kyrgyz Parliament. She earned Master's Degree in Public Administration and Policy Analyses at the International University of Japan. Chynara presented the research paper on democracy and political trust in the Kyrgyz Republic at the research exhibition of the Graduate School of International Relations, in Japan. While doing researches in political science, she actively participates in public and social activities. Chynara became a regional finalist of the Business Competition Hult Prize 2019, one of the most important social entrepreneurship awards in the world.

She continues to work on political trust issue in the Kyrgyz Republic, and seeks opportunity to deepen academic findings regarding politics and democracy in general.



Pranvera Tika is a political scientist. Her main academic and research interests include the broad spectrum of the processes of democratization in the Balkans, right-wing extremism in Europe and in the Balkans, populism, comparative politics, Euroscepticism, conspiracy theories, social movements, political parties, human rights and globalization. She is completing her PhD thesis at Panteion University in Athens (Greece) under the supervision of Professor Vassiliki Georgiadou, with emphasis on the political systems of three Balkan countries after the fall of Communism: Albania, Bulgaria and

Romania. She has been involved in different European projects concerning the phenomenon, the development of the comparative research, secondary analysis (Socialdatanet) as well as the quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Pranvera is a member of the Hellenic Political Science Association (HPSA) and the Hellenic Leagues of the Human Rights.



Uros Mamic is a PhD student at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences. He obtained MA degree in International Affairs at the University of Belgrade in 2017. He also completed the Regional MA Program in Peace Studies in 2018-obtaining another MA degree in Political Science jointly awarded by the University of Belgrade and the University of Sarajevo. Uros spent multiple semesters abroad at universities in Czech Republic, Latvia and Germany as part of research and exchange programs – following different opportunities of expanding academic and professional horizons. He has gathered professional experience in journalism and international development – currently working as a Regional Program Officer at the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund with the British Embassy in Belgrade. His specific academic interests lie in the field of international development and peace studies.



Tatia Tchoidze obtains MA Degree in Political Science at the University of Ljubljana. Her research topics include the political development of party systems, democratization, contemporary political polarization problems, and their consequences on governance and decision-making processes. Tatia earned a Bachelor's Degree with honors in International Relations from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. During her BA studies, she was an exchange student at the University of Latvia, Faculty of Political Science. She holds a Slovenian Master Study scholarship for Georgian Nationals. In the past, she has worked with several organizations specializing in democracy, transparency, and corruption issues. In 2017-2018 she served as a Parliamentary fellow at the Committee of Foreign Affairs at Parliament of Georgia.



Medina Abylkasymova, obtains Erasmus Mundus master's degree in Women and Gender Studies, to be conferred jointly by Central European University (CEU) and the University of Lodz (UL). She is an alumna of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the American University of Central Asia, majoring in Economics, Economic Governance, and Development. Medina is a fellow of US-CAEF, DAAD, and RAUN programs. She has participated in and led many international conferences such as Europe and Liberty, Model UN and Model OSCE. Medina was an intern in international organizations such as European Delegation to Kyrgyz Republic, IFC, UNHCR, GIZ and UN Women in Kyrgyzstan. She is currently working on a research project with the UN Women office in Bishkek to examine the impact of its projects on women's agency.



Jemile Bashimova is an MA student in Nationalism, Ethnic and Minority Policy at the Central European University. She recently finished an online course in Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation, a joint initiation by the OSCE and UNODA at Vienna. Jemila obtained BA degree at the American University in Central Asia majoring in International and Comparative Politics. During the studies she spent an exchange semester at SciencesPo Paris, with the support of Erasmus+ International. She is an alumna of the 2017 Study of

United States Institute For Student Leaders on Women's Leadership program. Her research interests are Central Asian politics, minority issues in the Post-Soviet territory, gender in peace, and security.



Abira Kuandyk is an M.A. student in International Development and Cooperation at Roma Tre University in Rome, Italy. Her research and practical interest areas are security and gender studies, democratic innovations and development. Abira wants women to have an equal participation in peace and security related issues both on national and international levels.



Karolina Rankovic is a certified lawyer from Serbia who has been practicing law for 9 years, focusing on Roma and Sinti rights in Serbia. In cooperation with the Association of Roma Prosperity Karolina does monitoring and analyze the human rights situation of Roma and Sinti but also provide legal representation to those in need.



Arzuu Sheranova is currently PhD student at the Corvinus University of Budapest and a junior researcher at the Center for Central Asia Research. Arzuu holds MA degree from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek Master's programme in Politics and Security (2015). Arzuu has more than seven years of work experience in international organizations, working on conflict mitigation, conflict prevention, community-security, good governance and development. Her research interests include Nationalism, Clan Politics, Security, Elections and Gender.



Alban Nako is a research analyst at the Civil Alliance Toward Integrity Foundation. He pursues PhD in Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University. Alban holds MA in Criminal Law from the University of Tirana. Prior he served as specialist at the Water Resources Management Agency and the Ministry of Education and Sports.



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