



# **3<sup>rd</sup> ECPR-OSCE/ODIHR**

## **Winter School**

## **on Political Parties &**

## **Democracy**

**13-21 January 2021**

**ONLINE**



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## Welcome

Welcome to this seven-day and a half intensive Winter 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 Winter School, organized with the collaboration of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW) and the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy: REPRESENT (University of Nottingham) brings together an international team of 12 academics and 10 practitioners to train and instruct a group of 16 MA/PhD researchers and practitioners and civil society leaders in the field of political parties and democracy.

The main aims of the Winter 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.



## Winter School Program

### *Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup> January)*

- 13.50-14.00 Online connection with participants
- 14.00-14.15 Welcome by Ms. Meaghan Fitzgerald, Acting Head of Democratization Department (OSCE/ODIHR)
- 14.15-14.40 Welcome by the Winter School co-directors
- 14.40-15.00 Virtual tour de table
- 15.00 -16.15 Opening lecture on democracy in Europe  
Prof. Brigid Laffan, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies,  
European University Institute, Florence
- 16.15-17.15 Virtual warming up of participants

### *Thursday (14<sup>th</sup> January)*

#### **Topic: “Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons”**

*Speakers:* Dr Richard Youngs (Carnegie) and Jacopo Leone (OSCE/ODIHR)

*Guest Expert:* Dr Emilbek Juraev (Soros Foundation)

- 9:00-10:30 Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
- 10.30-10.45 Break
- 10:45-11:45 “Crisis of Traditional Parties?” (Konstantine Gavrilov)
- 11:45-12:45 “Resisting Democratic Backslide in Romania” (Claudia Badulescu)
- 12:45-13:00 Wrap up and next session preparation

### *Friday (15<sup>th</sup> January)*

#### **Topic: “Political Party Regulations and Party Funding”**



*Speakers:* Dr Marcin Walecki (Europeum, St Antony's College, Oxford University) and Prof. Konstantine Vardzelashvili (OSCE/ODIHR)

*Guest Expert:* Prof. Ingrid van Biezen (Leiden University)

9:00-10:30	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
10.30-10.45	Break
10:45-11:45	“Old-Guard vs. Young Afghan Political Parties: A Step Towards Democratic Afghanistan” (Abdul Rahman Yasa)
11:45-12:45	“Institutional Democracy and the Functioning of Political Parties” (Laurent Ymet)
12:45-13:00	Wrap up and next session preparation

*Saturday (16<sup>th</sup> January)*

***Topic: “Party System Institutionalization: Causes and Consequences”***

*Speakers:* Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (University of Nottingham) and Radivoje Grujic (OSCE/ODIHR, Warsaw)

*Guest Expert:* Dr Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)

9:00-10:30	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
10.30-10.45	Break
10:45-11:45	“Institutionalization of the Party System of Ukraine” (Viktoriiia Sovpenchuk)
11:45-12:45	“COVID and Political Party Leaders’ Reactions in the Western Balkans” (Miloš Pavković)
12:45-13:00	Break
13:00-14:00	“Discursive Transformation of Islamic Revival Party in Tajikistan” (Emomali Mirzoev)



14:00-14:15                      Wrap up and next session preparation

*Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> January)*

Free day

*Monday (18<sup>th</sup> January)*

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

*Speakers:* Augusta Featherston, Amila De Saram-Larssen (OSCE/ODIHR) and Dr Ekaterina Rashkova (Utrecht University)

*Guest Expert:* Sasa Gavric (OSCE/ODIHR)

9:00-10:30                      Debate and discussion with the guest speakers

10.30-10.45                      Break

10:45-11:45                      “Political Participation of the Albanian Youth” (Alba Brojka)

11:45-12:45                      “Women and Gender Equality” (Umidakhon Narimanova)

12:45-13:00                      Wrap up and next session preparation

*Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup> January)*

**Topic: “New Technologies, Political Parties and Democracy”**

*Speakers:* Dr Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka (UKSW/ European University Institute in Florence) and Krzysztof Izdebski (E-Panstwo)

*Guest Expert:* Dr Agnieszka Kwiatkowska (SWPS University)

9:00-10:30                      Debate and discussion with the guest speakers

10.30-10.45                      Break

10:45-11:45                      “The Role of Social Media in Promoting Populism and Fake News” (Kristína Bolemanová)



11:45-12:45	“Patriotism in Poland and its Perception Abroad” (Alicja Kacprzak)
12:45-13:00	Wrap up and next session preparation
13:00- 14:00	Lunch break
14.00-15.00	One-to-one (voluntary) virtual meetings with Dr Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka or Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa

*Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup> January)*

***Topic: “Party Politics in the Age of Populism”***

*Speakers:* Dr Lenka Bustikova (Arizona State University, USA) and Marta Pardavi (Hungarian Helsinki Committee/ European University Institute in Florence)

*Guest Expert:* Dr Petra Guasti (Goethe University)

9:00-10:30	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
10.30-10.45	Break
10:45-11:45	“Iron Curtain of environmentalism: The East-West divide of Green parties” (Eva Jovanova)
11:45-12:45	“Explaining Participation and Support in Protest within the Post-communist Region” (Namig Abbasov)
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	Special Session: “How to Get Published?” with Dr Petra Guasti (Goethe University), Dr Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka (editor of <i>Politologia</i> ) and Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (co-editor of the Routledge Book Series on “Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections”)
15.00-15.15	Wrap up and next session preparation
15:15-16:00	Virtual social activity (optional)



*Thursday (21<sup>th</sup> January)*

***Topic: “Political Parties and Election Campaigning”***

*Speakers:* Anna Rusu (OSCE/ODIHR) and Dr Tim Haughton (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom)

*Guest Expert:* Dr Michał Kotnarowski (SWPS University)

9:00-10:30	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
10.30-10.45	Break
10:45-11:45	“Misuse of Administrative Resources during (Moldovan) Elections” (Mariana Focşa)
11:45-12:45	“The Europeanization of Electoral Reform in Albania” (Odetta Berberi)
12.45-13.30	Closing remarks and way forward





## **Logistical information**

### **Dress-code**

Dress-code for the School is smart-casual.

### **Technical details:**

The Winter 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

- Lührmann, A. and Lindberg, S. (2019): “A Third Wave of Autocratization is Here: What is New About It?”, *Democratization*, 2v. 26, n. 7, pp. 1095-1113 (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2019.1582029>)
- European Commission and the High Representative (2020): *EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024*, JOIN(2020)5 (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46838/st12848-en20.pdf>)
- OECD Recommendation of the Council of Public Integrity: <https://www.oecd.org/gov/ethics/recommendation-public-integrity/>
- Solak, N. (2018): *Comparative Study on Codes of Conduct for Public Administration in the OSCE Region*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR Opinion Paper

### Session 2

- 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>)
- OSCE Anti-corruption Handbook - Chapter 9 Political Party Funding (<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/232761>)
- ODIHR/VC - Guidelines on Political Party Regulation - all the sections dealing with party/campaign finance ([https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2020\)032-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2020)032-e))
- Casal Bértoa, F. and Biezen, I. van (2018): Introduction in *The Regulation of Post-communist Party Politics*. Abingdon/New York: Routledge (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21599165.2014.938738>)

### Session 3

- Casal Bértoa, F. (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 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1478929916677136?journalCode=psw>)
- Enyedi, Z. and Casal Bértoa, F. (2018): “Institutionalization and De-institutionalization in Post-communist Party Systems”, *East European Politics and Societies*, v. 32, n. 3, pp. 422-450 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0888325417736808?journalCode=eep>)

#### Session 4

- OSCE/ODIHR's Guidelines on Promoting the Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities (2019) <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/6/414344.pdf>
- Priestley, M. Stickings, M., Loja, E., Grammenos, S., Lawson, A, Waddington, L. and Fridriksdottir, B. (2016): “The Political Participation of Disabled People in Europe: Rights, Accessibility and Activism”, *Electoral Studies*, v. 42, pp.1-9 (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0261379416000093>)
- Wangnerud, L. (2009): “Women in Parliaments: Descriptive and Substantive Representation”, *Annual Reviews of Political Science*, v. 12, pp. 51-69 (<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.polisci.11.053106.123839>)
- Rashkova, E.R. (2020): “Gender Politics and Radical Right Parties: An Examination of Women’s Substantive Representation in Slovakia”, *East European Politics and Societies*, First View Online (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0888325419897993>)

#### Session 5

- 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://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/poi3.221>)
- Tufekci, Z. and Wilson, C. (2012) Social Media and the Decision to Participate in Political Protest: Observations from Tahrir Square, *Journal of Communication*, 62, p. 363–379

#### Session 6

- Bustikova, L. (2019): *The Established and the Ascendant. Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 2 (p. 18-68)
- FRA, Civic Space – Experience of organisations in 2019 ([https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2020-civic-space-organisation-experiences\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-civic-space-organisation-experiences_en.pdf))

#### Session 7

- OSCE Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance (<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/8/135516.pdf>)
- Jacobson, G.C. (2015): “How do Campaigns Matter?”, *Annual Reviews of Political Science*, v.18, PP. 31-47 (<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-polisci-072012-113556>)
- Cutts, D. and Haughton, T. (2020): “Winning Votes and Influencing People: Campaigning in Central and Eastern Europe”, *East European Politics*, First View Online (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21599165.2020.1767076?journalCode=fjcs21>)

## 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. 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. Currently, Katarzyna is a Jean Monett Fellow at the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence.

## Speakers



**Meaghan Fitzgerald**, Acting Head of the Democratization Department at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Meaghan is a lawyer with a background in international affairs, Russian studies, human rights, and elections. In her career she has worked for the US State Department, OSCE offices in Belarus and Tajikistan, the United Nations, and managed a number election observation missions around the world for ODIHR and the Carter Center. As acting head of the democratization department she oversees ODIHR's work in the fields of migration and freedom of movement, rule of law, democratic governance

and gender as well as the support they give to participating States on drafting legislation that complies with international standards.



**Brigid Laffan** is Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and Director of the Global Governance Programme at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence. She was Director of the European Governance and Politics Programme until August 2020. In August 2013, Professor Laffan joined us after leaving the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) University College Dublin (UCD), where she was Professor of European Politics. She was Vice-President of UCD and Principal of the College of Human Sciences from 2004 to 2011.

Previously, she was the founding director of the Dublin European Institute UCD from 1999 and in March 2004 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She is a member of the Board of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Fulbright Commission (until September 2013) and was the 2013 Visiting Scientist for the EXACT Marie Curie Network. In November 2018 she was ranked among the women who shape Europe by POLITICO and was also awarded by the University of Limerick Alumni Association with its highest honour. In September 2014 Professor Laffan was awarded the UACES Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2012 she was awarded the THESEUS Award for outstanding research on European Integration. In 2010 she was awarded the *Ordre national du Mérite* by the President of the French Republic.



**Richard Youngs** is a senior fellow in the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program, based at Carnegie Europe. He works on EU foreign policy and on issues of international democracy. He is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick. Prior to joining Carnegie in July 2013, he was the director of the European think tank FRIDE. He has held positions in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as an EU Marie Curie fellow. He was a senior fellow at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC, from 2012 to 2013. He has authored thirteen books. His most recent works are *Civic Activism Unleashed: New Hope or False Dawn for Democracy?* (Oxford University Press, 2019), *Europe Reset: New Directions for the EU* (I.B. Tauris, 2017), and *Europe's Eastern Crisis: The Geopolitics of Asymmetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).



**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.



**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 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.



Since 2018, **Konstantine Vardzelashvili** is the Chief of the Legislative Support Unit (LSU) of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which assists participating States in evaluating compliance of draft or existing legislation with the OSCE Human Dimension commitments and international standards. In providing such support, LSU produces legal opinions, reviews law-making system of pS and draws on legislative guidelines in specific areas, such as freedom of assembly and political party legislation.

Previously, he was a substitute member of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe (2007 - 2015) and a Vice Chair and member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (2012-2016). Furthermore, he served as the Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of Georgia (2006-2016) and as Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia (2004-2006).



**Radivoje Grujić** is a Democratic Governance Officer with OSCE/ODIHR, previously serving as Election Adviser for seven years with the same Office, being desk officer for dozen countries in OSCE region. Radivoje is citizen of Serbia. Since late 1990's he has been engaged in various types of civic activism at home and on international level, through election observation, democracy and civil society development – working in election and democratic governance assistance programs with different agencies such as the Council of Europe, IFES,

NDI, Transparency International and as an independent consultant, in Moldova, Georgia, Jordan, Ukraine, Serbia and other countries. His work includes advocacy on many public policy issues and think-tank development. In election observation, Radivoje was part of citizen observer groups in Serbia, and also participated in many international election observation missions throughout the OSCE region. Prior to joining OSCE/ODIHR, Radivoje served as Country Representative of IFES in Serbia, supporting political finance oversight with state institutions and civil society. Radivoje holds a university degree in Law from Belgrade University.



**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.



**Ekaterina R. Rashkova** is an Assistant Professor of Public Governance and Management at Utrecht University. She earned her PhD in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in 2010 for a dissertation entitled '*Political Learning and the Number of Parties: Why Age Matters*', which won the UniCredit and Universities Foundation Best CEE PhD Thesis Award in May 2011. Prior to taking her post at Utrecht, Ekaterina Rashkova worked as an Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Innsbruck, Austria (2013-2016) and held a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Leiden University, the Netherlands (2010-2013) before that. During the 2015-2016 academic year she conducted research on the effect of electoral regulation on party competition as a EURIAS fellow at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study (NIAS). Her work compares new and established democracies and has appeared in *Comparative European Politics*, *East European Politics*, *International Political Science Review*, *Party Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Representation* as well as in several edited book volumes. She is a co-editor of the *European Political Science* journal.



**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.



**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 Clientelism".



**Márta Pardavi** is co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a leading human rights NGO in Budapest that works to advance democratic values, the rule of law and a strong civil society, the right to asylum and a fair criminal justice system. A lawyer by training, she has been awarded the 2018 William D. Zabel Human Rights Award from Human Rights First, Civil Rights Defender's Civil Rights Defenders of the Year 2019 award and was chosen to be a member of POLITICO28 Class of 2019. Currently on sabbatical leave from the

HHC, Márta is a Policy Leader Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute.



Since 2017, **Ana Rusu** serves as Senior Election Adviser with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Lawyer by background, she occupied several positions with the Council of Europe including lawyer to the Groupe of States against Corruption (GRECO, 2003), programme manager for the development of a School of Magistrates in Georgia (2004 - 2005), Co-secretary of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors and Secretary of the Lisbon Network in Strasbourg (2006 - 2009), referendaire to the

European Social Charter (2009 – 2010) and programme manager for electoral assistance in the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe (2012 - 2017). On behalf of ICON INSTITUTE (Germany) she was also involved in consultancy activities to the authorities of

Kazakhstan, in the field of judiciary reform and Uzbekistan, in the field of parliamentary democracy (2010 - 2012). She holds a master degree in law from the State University of Moldova (French speaking studies) as well as a university diploma (DU) in administration of elections from the University Paris 1 – Pantheon Sorbonne. She is fluent in French, Romanian, Russian and English and has some basis knowledge of Italian.



**Tim Haughton** is Reader (Senior Associate Professor) in European Politics at the University of Birmingham, where he served as Head of the Department of Political Science and International Studies (2016-18) and the Director of the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (2012-14). Dr Haughton was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Center for European Studies and an Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Dr Haughton has good

links with the policymaking community, having briefed *inter alia* five British Ambassadors to Slovakia before they took up their posts. Tim's research interests encompass electoral and party politics, electoral campaigning, the role of the past in the politics of the present, the domestic politics of Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic and Brexit. He is the co-author with Kevin Deegan-Krause of *The New Party Challenge: Changing Cycles of Party Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2020), the editor of *Party Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Does EU Membership Matter?* (Routledge, 2011) and served as the co-editor with Nathaniel Copey of the *Journal of Common Market Studies' Annual Review of the European Union* for nine years (2008-16).

## Guest experts



**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 and Program Director at the Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan.



**Ingrid van Biezen** is Professor in Comparative Politics. She studied at Leiden University, from which she also received her PhD. She has subsequently worked at the University of Birmingham and has been a visiting professor at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore and a research fellow at Yale University and the University of California, Irvine. Her current research concentrates primarily on the various empirical and normative dimensions of party regulation and its implications for modern party democracy. In this context, she recently directed a large-scale research project *Re- conceptualizing party democracy*, funded by the European Research Council.



**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 / Frankfurt an der Oder.



**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.



**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 legislative voting.



**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 Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. At the Ash Center, she concentrated on transformations in democratic 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](#)).



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

## Participants



**Namig Abbasov** is a PhD candidate (Political Science) in the School of Politics and Global Studies Department at Arizona State University and a research fellow at Global Human Rights Hub. He holds MA in International Relations and Dialogue Studies from Keele University, United Kingdom and BA in European Studies from Qafqaz University, Azerbaijan. His research areas include political violence, state repression against sexual minorities, and climate change with a regional focus on the post-communist area, specifically the Caucasus. He currently works on a research question of why states repress sexual minorities even though these groups do not threaten state security.



**Abdul Rahman Yasa** is a civil society activist and human rights defender serving as a Research and Policy Officer with Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) in Afghanistan. Recently, Mr. Yasa has been involved extensively in research projects supporting women and non-dominant Afghan minorities for meaningful participation in an inclusive Afghan peace process. Under consultancy with IFES, Yasa has also produced a training toolkit on hate speech in Afghanistan. His academic articles and research reports have appeared in several international academic journals and websites. His experience with Afghanistan Cultural House, Ministry of Interior, Independent Directorate of Local Governance of Afghanistan between 2012 and 2018 provided him the opportunity to look at governance practices and challenges of a broad range of institutional issues, including corruption, sub-national governance policy, citizen-centered governance, and security sector reform. Mr. Yasa holds an MA in Security and Politics from the OSCE Academy and a BA in Political Science and International Affairs from Kateb University. His area of interest is peacebuilding, conflict prevention, democratic governance, anti-corruption, peace, and security studies.



**Laurent Ymet** is a young expert and researcher. He is part of the Institute for Political Studies in Albania as a Project Coordinator and an associate in different projects. He has assisted lectures in bachelor and master programs in the Political Science and International Relations Department. Laurent's primary focus in the field is academic and secondarily analytic. He enjoys lecturing and writing but also analyzes, doing research, and implementing projects. He aims to lead young researchers and students to have a better understanding of democratic and governing concepts. Laurent holds a Master of Science Degree in Political Science and International Relations. He writes content, articles, and reports for different actors from the time he threw his first steps in the political field.



**Claudia Badulescu** is a PhD Researcher in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute (EUI) where I am analysing the Europeanization of post-communist public administrations from the CEE and the Western Balkans. While at the EUI, I have been working on a variety of international research projects, such as the Horizon 2020 InDivEU project, the ERC Synergy programme SOLID, the POLCON project and the euandi2019 project. Previously, I have worked for several years as a Senior Project Manager at the French ENA, where I had a leading role in the management of international projects supporting administrative reform in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.



**Odeta Berberi** has completed her doctoral studies in Tirana University, titled "*The EU Impact on National Minority Rights in the Western Balkans: The Case of Albania and FYR of Macedonia*". During her doctoral studies Mrs. Berberi has been part of a European exchange PhD program at the University of Bologna. She received her Master in International Relations from University of Perugia in 2010 and has completed a Master in Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Bologna in 2011. For eight years, she has worked as an external lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Tirana. Ms. Berberi is the author of several scientific articles and a book published in English. Ms. Berberi is the Political Advisor on Electoral Reform and EU Integration Issues of the Socialist Party Parliamentary Group in the Albanian Parliament. She has considerable experience in European projects by being part of the staff in three different European projects implemented in support of the Albanian public administration. She has worked with the OSCE/ ODIHR mission in the 2017 general election. Throughout the years Mrs. Berberi has been part of various projects implemented by civil society in Albania and Kosovo.



**Kristína Bolemanová** undertook her studies of international relations and diplomacy in Slovakia, Belgium and France. She worked as a policy advisor in the European Commission in the area of research and European Parliament in the Committee on internal market and Subcommittee on human rights. In 2016, she worked as a national expert during the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the EU. She also participates in the elections as a polling officer. In 2018, she took part in EU election observation mission to Paraguay. Currently, she is working on her PhD on transatlantic relations at Matej Bel University in Slovakia.



**Alba Brojka** is a political scientist, and she is currently assisting the European Endowment for Democracy, Western Balkans Programme. Ms. Brojka believes that change is possible when people are empowered, a conviction she held throughout her work in the civil society in Albania and in her current affiliation. She has been active for many years in promoting the political participation of young people and in inspiring the latter to become active citizens. Alba has done so in various formats and capacities; as a volunteer and Secretary General of UN Association Albania; as the OSCE Special Representative on Youth and Security; or simply by engaging with informal groups of youth at a local level. Moreover, Alba holds a Master of Arts in ‘International Relations and Diplomacy of the EU’ from the College of Europe in Bruges and two undergraduate degrees in Law and Political Science from the University of Tirana and University of New York Tirana respectively.



**Mariana Focsa** graduated from Free International University of Republic of Moldova with a bachelor’s degree in International Relations, followed by Master degree in European Studies. She has 14 years of experience in different domains, served in state service, private companies and NGO. Since 2017, she has been working as an analyst for Promo-LEX Association. She was involved in elections observing missions at national and international levels. At national level, she was involved in seven national electoral campaigns as an electoral, political campaign and financial analyst. At international level, she has observed elections during four electoral campaigns in Romania, Armenia and Ukraine (as STO and LTO).



**Konstantin Gavrilov** was born and spent most of his life in Saint-Petersburg (Russia). He graduated from the BA program "Political science and world politics" from the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Saint-Petersburg. He continues his MA degree program "Public policy and political analysis" at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow.



**Eva Jovanova** is a Skopje native. She holds a Master's degree from the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies (CERES) at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where she also worked as a fellow and a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Russian Foreign Policy to Dr. Angela Stent. She completed her Bachelor's degree in European Studies at the Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg in 2017, where she mainly focused on the integration of the Balkans into the European Union. Eva has also spent some time abroad in Russia, studying

International Relations at the St. Petersburg State University, and has diverse work experience in six different languages. Currently, her main research interests are political campaigns and Green Parties in Eastern Europe.



**Alicja Kacprzak** works at the United Nations in Geneva. She specializes in policy related topics pertaining to circular economy, sustainability, employment and gender equality. Before joining the United Nations, she worked at the World Economic Forum, and in the private sector. She holds a MSc in International Relations (Poznan University of Economic); a MSc in Business Management (ESSCA); and a CAS in Sustainable Development (University of Geneva).



**Emomali Mirzoev** holds a Master's degree in Politics and Security at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Besides, he is a civil society activist, affiliated with a number of NGOs in Tajikistan. My research interest is the relationship between religious parties and (liberal) democracy, which is why I explored Tajikistan's case in that respect. Personally, I am a sociable and curious young person, invested in exploration on all fronts, which is also why I have not specialized in a particular field yet.





**Umidakhon Narimanova** is an Associate Professor/PhD Researcher at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She holds Bachelor of Business Management from University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Master of Science in Global Marketing from Staffordshire University, UK. Umidakhon is the Scholar of the “UMID” (“HOPE”) Foundation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to support education of talented youth abroad. She won the privilege to pursue her Master’s degree in Great Britain. Umidakhon is an author of more than 25 articles. In 2006 she won The Best Paper Award in Marketing & corporative management and became a Winner of the IV scientific-practical conference of young specialists studied at foreign universities abroad, organised by The Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan and The "Istedod" (“Talent”) Foundation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Enhance the Professional Skills of Perspective Young Teachers & Scientists. In 2016 Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan honored Umidakhon with certificate of appreciation “Healthy woman – Pride of the Nation” for her merits in the higher education institution for many years. She also received Appreciation Awards in 2014-2017 from “Kamolot” Civic Youth Movement of Uzbekistan for supporting ideas of young entrepreneurs and for contribution in youth development.



**Miloš Pavković** was born in Belgrade, Serbia. He has earned his Bachelor’s degree at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences in 2017. In the same year he enrolled in the Joint’s Interdisciplinary Master’s Programme in South-East European Studies jointly organized by the University of Graz and University of Belgrade. He had a chance to spend second year of his studies at the University of Graz within Erasmus plus mobility programme. In 2020. he defended his master's thesis: *(De)Consolidation of Kosovo's Statehood in the Context of Contemporary Negotiations of Belgrade and Pristina*. Miloš is currently completing his second master’s degree at the Central European University in Vienna. His main research interests are: comparative politics, democratic theory, South-East European region, international law and international organizations.



**Viktoriia Sovpenchuk** is a PhD candidate in Political Science and Administration at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Warsaw. She holds a Dual-Master’s degree in Political Science (National University of Ostroh Academy) and East European Studies (University of Warsaw) and a Master’s degree in Politics and Society (Graduate School for Social Research). Currently she is doing her research on party system effects on electoral reforms. Her research interests include party politics, democratisation and survey data analysis. She is also involved in a research project “Dynamics of youth employment precarity: drivers, trajectories, and outcomes in a cross-national perspective”.



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