

The IWM welcomes a fresh cohort of Europe's Futures Fellows

In the academic year 2023/24, eight distinguished fellows will be working on their individual research projects under the overarching topic of how to resist authoritarian tendencies in the European Union and its immediate neighborhood.



Alberto Alemanno

How to Make the European Union a People's Project

After 70 years of unprecedented socioeconomic integration, the EU continues to evolve through processes that largely marginalize citizens' input. It remains virtually impossible for an EU citizen—not to mention its residents—to express his/her desire for a change in the Union's direction and hold its institutions accountable. If the post-Lisbon EU has constitutionally embraced a model of democracy under which citizen participation forms an additional source of legitimacy for the Union in its day-to-day decision-making, this has not translated into a major transformation in how citizens participate in the Union's democratic life, on EU Election Day and beyond. This is concretely due to the absence of both a pan-EU electoral party system and a pan-EU public sphere. This research project examines existing reform proposals and suggests new ones aimed at democratizing the EU project at a critical time for the continent.

Alberto Alemanno is the Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law at HEC Paris and a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. One of the leading voices on Europe's democratization, Alberto's research has been centered on how the law may be used to counter social, health, economic, and political disparities of access within society. Alberto is a regular contributor to Le Monde, The Guardian, Politico Europe, Bloomberg, and Euronews.



Vladimir Arsenijević

Collective Emotions in Times of Global Crises

Njegoševa Street, a central and also very lively artery of the whole neighborhood in Belgrade, scattered with cafes, shops, and public buildings, has been saturated with various graffiti, stencils, and wall paintings. All of them clearly belong to the same branch of right-wing, nationalistic, militaristic, and war-mongering paraphernalia. By analyzing all the writings on the wall spanning the length of Njegoševa Street, Vladimir Arsenijević will attempt to prove that, disregarding the subjective question of whose hand holds the spray can, it is the Serbian State which is the main objective violator—and Serbian society the sole victim—of this long-drawn-out criminal activity that ever since the end of the last wars of the 1990s has been holding the whole population in its vice-like grip.

Vladimir Arsenijević is a prolific writer and cultural worker. From 1994, he published 12 titles, mainly novels but also collections of stories, essays, and graphic novels. He also wrote for film and theatre as well as for various daily newspapers, magazines, and internet portals. His works have been translated into more than twenty languages. He won the NiN Prize (1994), the Sterija Prize (1996), and the National Library of Serbia Award for the most-read book (2011). Arsenijević is the president and creative director of the Association KRO-KODIL.



Ilir Deda

The Impact of the EU-Sponsored Basic Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia on Stabilization, Democratization, and Integration of the Western Balkans

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has mobilized the transatlantic community to address the unresolved issues, with destabilizing potential, in Southeast Europe. The EU-sponsored and US-supported Kosovo-Serbia “Basic Agreement” is expected to upgrade/normalize the relationships between the two and to advance security and stability in the Western Balkans. The prevalent thinking is that the Basic Agreement will enable a more predictable relationship between Serbia and Kosovo, paving the way for accelerated regional cooperation and integration, while fully anchoring the Western Bal-

kans with the EU and the West. The work will also focus on whether this deal has strengthened democratization or authoritarian tendencies in the region.

Ilir Deda has over two decades experience of working in national, regional, and international public and non-governmental institutions. He has extensive knowledge of national, regional, and international affairs, governance, democracy and security, and overall institution building. He worked at the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); was a two-term elected MP at the Assembly of Kosovo; led the KIPRED Institute in Pristina; was a researcher at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy; Analyst for the International Crisis Group (ICG) in Kosovo. He also served as chief of staff of the President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga.



Ieva Česnulaitytė

New Deliberative Institutions as an Antidote to Authoritarianism

Can citizen deliberation and empowered citizens’ assemblies act as an antidote to authoritarianism, and if so, in what ways? To what extent are citizens’ assemblies resilient to potential influence and manipulation (from within or external)? What kind of pushback do they receive from opposing forces, which arguably will increase in the future as they gain more and more power? These are the questions Ieva aims to tackle with the goal of drawing lessons for the future use of new deliberative institutions in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond.

Ieva Česnulaityte is the Founding Head of Research and Learning at DemocracyNext, an international non-profit, non-partisan research and action institute with a mission to build new democratic institutions for the next democratic paradigm of citizen participation and deliberation.



Katy Hayward

Discernment and Democracy: Protecting the Civic Role of the University in the Face of the AI Challenge

The institution of the University is fundamental to liberal democracy in two ways: providing the education of good citizens and the evidence for good policy-making. The substitution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for human intelligence debilitates the quality of both education and evidence; in so doing, a new gateway to authoritarianism opens up. In this fellowship, Katy Hayward will explore what functions AI might be likely to fulfill in education and evidence-generation in universities and identify the risks therein. She will then use an interdisciplinary approach to explore how universities might equip citizens with the necessary capacity for discernment in defense of democracy.

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Katy Hayward PhD is Professor of Political Sociology at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. She has presented to media, policy, civic, and academic audiences worldwide as an expert on the impact of European integration and Brexit on peace, democratic processes, governance, and cross-border cooperation in Ireland and the UK.



Kadri Liik

Russia's Capacity for Self-Correction: Where Did It Come From and Where Did It Go?

Kadri Liik's research will take a closer look at the societal factors that made it possible for Soviet Russia to embark on positive change, to attempt democratization and reckoning with the past. What were the factors that enabled these changes in the late 1980s and early 1990s? Are they dormant or dead now, and what does that bode for Russia post-Putin?

Kadri Liik is a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations with a research focus on Russia, Eastern Europe, and the Baltic region. She joined ECFR in 2012, after her term as the director of the International Centre for Defence Studies in Estonia from 2006 until 2011. Throughout the 1990s, Liik worked as a Moscow correspondent for several Estonian daily papers, including the highest-circulation daily in Estonia, Postimees, as well

as Eesti Päevaleht and the Baltic News Service.



Hanna Shelest

The Political Spectrum of the Right, Authoritarianism and the Reaction to the Russo-Ukrainian War

In the last decade, there has been an increase in right-wing and far-right political sentiments in many European countries, including Turkey. Some gravitate towards authoritarianism, some towards populism. In her research, Hanna Shelest proposes to look at these political actors' reactions and positions towards the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and further relations with the authoritarian Russian

regime, since some had a history of active cooperation with the Kremlin or affiliated political parties. Shelest will study whether those with authoritarian sentiments are more eager to justify Russian aggression or call for peace on Russian terms than those with a populist tendency, as the Italian example shows.

Hanna Shelest, PhD, Director of Security Programs at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” and Editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica. She is also a non-resident senior fellow at CEPA (Washington, DC). Before this, she had served for more than ten years as a Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine, Odesa Branch. In 2014, she was a Visiting Research Fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome.



Karolina Wigura

Collective Emotions in Times of Global Crises

What are the most important collective emotions in today's Europe? How can we understand and work with them? How can politicians respond to collective emotions in a way that is relevant to today's technologies? What is the best way for politicians and leaders of opinion to communicate with citizens? How can we promote expertise in times of crisis to prevent people from spreading fake news and conspiracy theories? How do we stop populists from building on negative emotions? In ancient Greece, crisis meant a deep change and a chance of development, rather than decline. Is it possible, then, to embrace this meaning in addressing our needs? Wigura intends to work on these questions from a political philosopher's point of view.

Dr. habil. Karolina Wigura is a historian of ideas, sociologist, and journalist. She is a member of the Board of Kultura Liberalna Foundation, based in Warsaw, and a Senior Fellow of the Center for Liberal Modernity, based in Berlin. Wigura is also a lecturer at Warsaw University's Institute of Sociology and focuses on the political philosophy of the 20th century and emotions in politics, as well as the sociology and ethics of memory, particularly transitional justice, historical guilt, and reconciliation.

For interview requests and other media-related inquiries, please contact Jakob Angeli at iwm-pr@iwm.at.

Contact information:

Institute for Human Sciences

Jakob Angeli

Content & PR Manager

+43-1-313-58-207

iwm-pr@iwm.at

www.iwm.at