



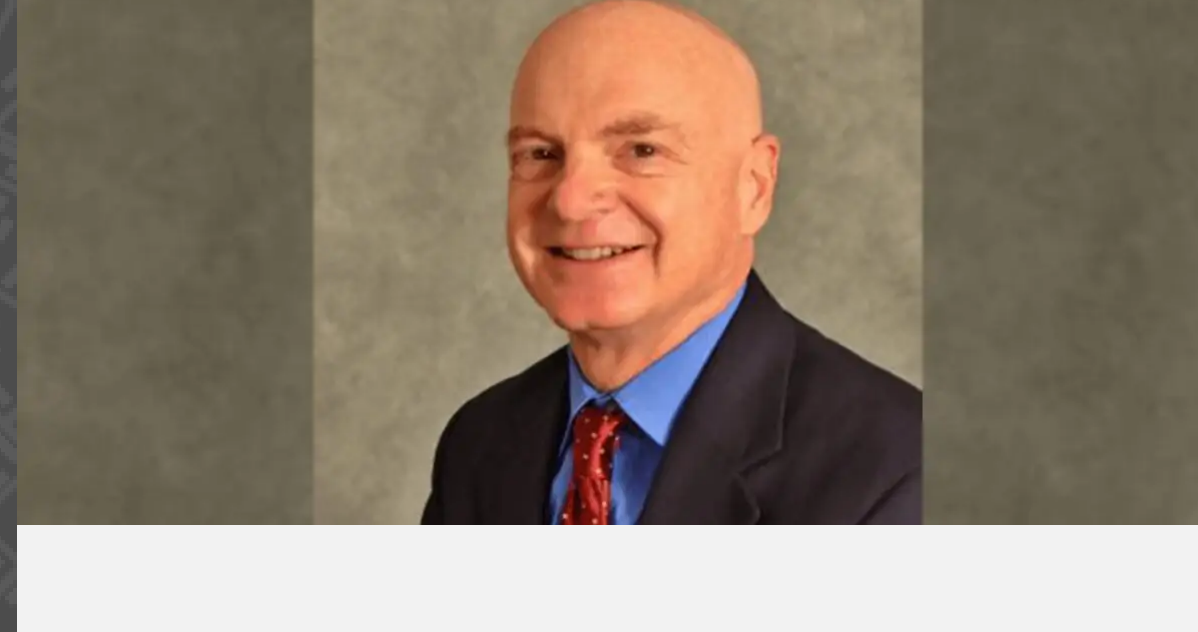
New research project: Culture Wars in Europe and Eurasia



Culture wars were long seen as unique to the highly polarized U.S. political context. In his seminal work *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Control the Family, Art, Education, Law, and Politics in America*, James Davison Hunter defines culture wars as cultural and social conflicts rooted in the moral and philosophical assumptions that order our lives. Outside the US, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa were the first regions of the world to face local versions of culture wars; these often occurred due to extensive interactions with U.S. actors—thereby confirming the transnationalization of culture wars and the birth of a new Global Right Wing, as studied by Clifford Bob—even if local context and actors agenda have remained the driving force.

Since then, the post-communist space of Europe and Eurasia (both former socialist countries and former Soviet republics) seems to have become a new hotspot for culture wars, and Western Europe has not been spared either. Contentious topics range from the classic abortion issue and the new flagship of LGBT+ rights to euthanasia, bioethics, medically assisted procreation, domestic violence, juvenile justice, climate change, and—since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic—vaccination and lockdown measures.

This new research project explores the dynamic nature of culture wars in Europe and Eurasia, looking at both domestic contexts and transnational actors, grassroots movements and ideological instrumentalization, and discusses how culture wars are reshaping definitions of belonging, citizenship, and moral order.



Ten Years after The Global Right Wing: Interview with Clifford Bob

Clifford Bob on the transnational connections between the global far-right, the influence of domestic U.S. culture wars, and on illiberalism as a version of classical liberalism.

Upcoming event

A Dynamic Theory of Populism in Power:
The Andes in Comparative Perspective
With Julio F. Carrion

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
10:00 - 11:00 am EST

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10:00 - 11:00 AM (EST)

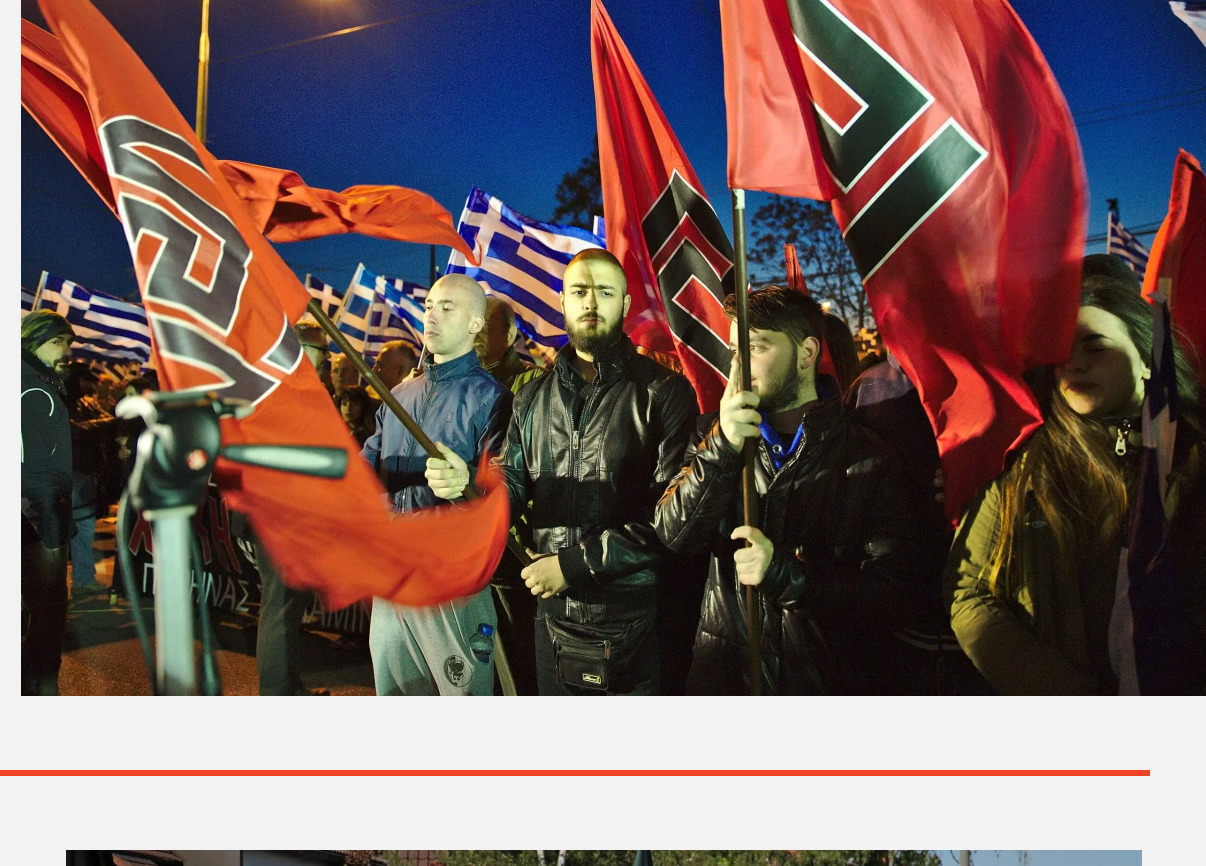
Julio F. Carrion will present his new book on the relationship between populism in power and democracy and the impact of populism on democracy in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

[More information](#)

Publications

Mapping the Greek Far Right One Year After Golden Dawn's Conviction

Nicholas Isychos discusses the rise of far right activism in Greece after the conviction of Golden Dawn.



Italy's Far-Right Reaction to its Green Pass Mandate

Kaitlyn Hays on Italy's Green Pass and vaccine mandate and the link with far-right demonstrations, nativism, and vaccine resistance.



German Far-Right Party Caught Organizing Acts of Vigilantism

Kaitlyn Hays on the case of a German neo-Nazi party engaging in anti-migrant vigilantism at the German-Polish border.

Agora

Stijn van Kessel on populism and Euroscepticism

Stijn van Kessel on the effect of Brexit on European populist movements, the relationship between populism and Euroscepticism, and populism in the Netherlands.



Daniele Albertazzi on the radical and extreme right in Italy and Switzerland

Daniele Albertazzi on the legacy of fascism in modern Italian radical right politics, direct democracy in Switzerland, and the response of populist parties to COVID-19.

Hilary Silver on left-wing xenophobia

Hilary Silver on left-wing xenophobia, potential economic motivations for it, and the evolution of xenophobia in Europe during COVID-19.



Mabel M. Berezin on fascism, populism, and the January 6 coup

Mabel M. Berezin on fascism as a historical reference, populism's thick culture, and the January 6 storming of the Capitol.



Tamar Groszwald Ozery discusses how [China's illiberal governance system](#) plays an important role in promoting market regularity by examining the complicated dynamic between China's rising public firms and their potentials of strengthening illiberal governance abroad while also promoting market regularity and assurance to investors.

David Paternotte and Mieke Verloo argue that illiberal opponents of the social sciences and academia not only aim to dismantle existing institutions of knowledge production but also promote [a new politics of truth](#).

Lisa Garbe, Lisa-Marie Selvik and Pauline Lemaire argue that the state is the dominant actor in responding to [fake news and hate speech](#) across African countries and point to the need for a better understanding of how regime-specific characteristics shape regulatory decisions.

Kristóf Szombati analyses the consolidation of authoritarian rule in rural Hungary by focusing attention on the ruling party's [workfare program](#), which has become the cornerstone of rural poverty governance. The workfare successfully tamed the angry politics born out of the dislocations caused by neoliberal restructuring and constitutes an alternative to neoliberal regimes of poverty governance.

Ulrich Schmiedel and Joshua Ralston look at the significance of religion for the controversies stirred up by populist politics in European and American contexts. Engaging Jewish, Christian, and Islamic political thought and theology, contributions by more than twenty established and emerging scholars explore [right-wing and left-wing protests](#), offering critical interpretations and creative interventions for a polarized public square.

Eve Gianoncelli analyzes the key distinctions between the political New Right and the Intellectual New Right. She suggests that despite the porosity growing between the right and the far right on a global level, the two ideals [did not merge into homogeneity](#).

Daniëlle Flonk argues that the [emerging Chinese and Russian content control norms](#) challenge the norm literature, which disregards illiberal norms and illiberal actors as norm entrepreneurs. He argues that both countries actively engage in setting norms through a combination of strategies of socialization (including like-minded states in a regional group or organization) and persuasion (changing the opinions and attitudes of target groups).

Martino Comelli argues that the wave of authoritarianism in Central Eastern Europe is [exacerbated by a shared political culture](#) based on Christian Democracy, and instead of divergence between Western and Central Eastern Europe, a form of convergence is happening. The illiberal policies enacted by several EU countries come out of the Christian-Democratic political toolbox and exemplify a paradoxical regime of authoritarian liberalism (or politics without policies) that does not threaten the (neo)liberal foundations of the EU.

Eduardo Ryô Tamaki and Cezar A. P. Braga analyze the populist discourse of Jair Bolsonaro during his winning bid for Brazil's presidency in 2018. The paper argues that, rather than a mild populist or illiberal actor, Bolsonaro embodies a [populist-nationalist stance](#).

*For resources on illiberal, populism, and authoritarian trends across the globe, consult our growing **Resource Hub** aggregating hundreds of published academic articles on illiberalism and other topics relating to illiberal movements. From security and international affairs, to democratic backsliding and public policy, this center of longstanding and recently-published literature continues to document ongoing global trends of growing illiberal movements around the world.*

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