

**Working group**

# Eastern Europe as Laboratory of Change

**ABSTRACT**

This interdisciplinary forum gathers scholars of all levels of seniority with research interests in Eastern Europe, including Central and Southeastern Europe, and East-West comparison. It allows its members to have their work discussed and assessed by peers with expertise on the region. Max Weber postdoctoral fellows and other EUI scholars participate.

**Webpage**

<https://www.eui.eu/research-hub?id=eastern-europe-as-a-laboratory-of-change>

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## Past events 2025

- **26.05.2025:** Biljana Kotevska: From Obscurity to Legacy: The Role of Yugoslav Socialist Ombudspersons in Shaping Contemporary Human Rights Governance, Artan Mustfafa: Major political change within stable, socially-rooted political competition in Eastern Europe: Serbia and Kosovo
  - **28.04.2025:** Christina Zuber: Vaguely fascist and communist legacies for nationalist mobilization, Maryna Rabynovich: Region-building through the TEN-T network at EU borders in the East and North
  - **31.03.2025:** Liliia Sablina: Co-opting the "Compatriots": Russian Extraterritorial Digital Authoritarianism
  - **24.02.2025:** Ediz Topcoglu, "Navigating Foreign Policy Harmonization: CFSP Alignment in EU Accession and Eastern Partnership Countries"; Wojciech Zomerski, "TBD"
  - **27.01.2025:** Daniel Kovarek and Bence Hamrak, "Descriptive Representation and Local-level Political Engagement: Evidence from Breaking the Highest Glass Ceiling in Slovakia"; Szinan Radi, "Contesting Money: The Politics of Time, Value, and the Common Good in Postwar Hungary, 1945–1958"
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## Past events 2024

- **25.11.2024:** Damjan Tomic, "Minority Multidimensionality: Perceptions of Political Minority Status & Deservingness of Protection Across European Democracies"; Biljana Kotevska, "Looking from the Outside In: An Intersectional Perspective on Gender Equality in Public Participation in the SEE Countries through the Prism of the CEDAW Committee"
- **25.11.2024** [Eastern Europe as Laboratory of Change Working Group – 3° Meeting](#)
- **28.10.2024:** Maciej Górecki, Michał Pierzgalski, and Anna Wojciuk, "Losing Her Religion? The Cultural Factor and Women's Electoral Fortunes"; Lucija Balikić, "The Long Shadow of Neo-Slavism: Interwar Debates on Liberal Citizenship in the Yugoslav Sokol Association"
- **28.10.2024** [Eastern Europe as Laboratory of Change Working Group – 2° Meeting](#)
- **30.09.2024** [Eastern Europe as Laboratory of Change: Kick-Off Meeting](#)
- **28.05.2024** Group discussion about the European elections

- **23.04.2024** Working papers "Complex, Changeable, or Just Complicated: Understanding EU Actorness Through the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue" by Alexander Mesarovich and the "The reconceptualisation of civil society in an illiberal democracy: the Hungarian Case" by Krisztina Arató
  - **26.03.2024** Group discussion of Kelemen, Daniel R. 2024. "Will the European Union escape its autocracy trap?", Journal of European Public Policy, 1-24.
  - **26.03.2024** Discussion "[Russia in the Balkans – proxies for ‘winning hearts and minds’: Strategic goals and mechanisms in the Western Balkans](#)" by Věra Stojarová (Masaryk University) and Jelena Dzankic
  - **06.03.2024** Lecture "[Post war governance dilemmas and democracy tradeoffs: Lessons from the Western Balkans](#)" by Elton Skendaj (Georgetown University)
  - **23.01.2024** Working paper "Acts of Citizenship and Solidarity Reframed: Displaced People from Ukraine in Prague and their Political Acts in Response to the Russian Invasion" by Natalia Dziadyk
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### Past events 2023

- **28.11.2023** Working papers "There's Strength in Networks: The External Incentives Model and Informality in South-Eastern Europe" by Alexander Mesarovich and "Shrouded in Secrecy. Explaining Why Some Countries Refuse to Disclose Their Military Aid to Ukraine" by Marius Ghincea
- **24.11.2023** Lecture "[A media lens on authoritarianism in Turkey: Projecting power at home and abroad](#)" by Lisel Hintz (Johns Hopkins University)
- **24.10.2023** Working papers "Preferences for Geographic Representation in Bureaucracy: How Shared Local Ties Influence the Turnover of Public Servants" by Dániel Kovarek and "How do electoral systems and reforms affect incumbents? Quasi-experimental evidence from municipality elections in Poland" by Michał Gulczyński
- **25.09.2023** Lecture "[Human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the Western Balkans: From Council of Europe to EU membership - perspectives 20 years after Thessaloniki](#)" by Tobias Flessenkemper (Council of Europe, Belgrade)
- **21.09.2023** Roundtable "[Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe amidst Russia's Aggression](#)" with the participation of Natalia Letki (University of Warsaw), Jozef Batora (Comenius University in Bratislava), Michal Parížek (Charles University), Daniel Bochsler (Central European University and University of Belgrade)
- **08.06.2023** Working papers "[Right-Wing Legal Mobilization Against Women's Rights. The Case of Abortion in Poland](#)" by Karolina Kocemba; "Russian Strategic

Narratives 2022-2023" by Olena Snigyr; and "Varieties of Central European Housing Tenure Regimes: The Long Life of a North-South Cleavage Line" by Bence Kováts

- **18.05.2023** Working paper ["Neighbors with Benefits: How Politicians' Local Ties Generate Positive Externalities When Bureaucratic Oversight is Limited"](#) by Dániel Kovarek
  - **20.04.2023** Working paper ["Disinformation as a Corruption Defense: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Georgia"](#) by Scott Radnitz and Yuan Hsiao
  - **09.03.2023** Working papers ["Heavy clouds, no rain. Unmasking the Polish Constitutional Tribunal challenging the primacy of the EU law and the Court of Justice in case K 3/21"](#) by Michał Ziółkowski and "Ownership of National Recovery Plans: Next Generation EU and Democratic Legitimacy" by Mario Munta
  - **09.02.2023** Group Discussion of Lewicki, Aleksandra. forthcoming ["East-West Inequalities and the Ambiguous Racialisation of 'Eastern Europeans'"](#), Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. and Baker, Catherine. 2021 "The contingencies of whiteness: Gendered/racialized global dynamics of security narratives". Security Dialogue 52 (S): 124-132.
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### **Past events 2022**

- **08.12.2022** Group discussion of Ghodsee, Kristen, and Mitchell Orenstein. 2021. [Taking Stock of Shock: Social Consequences of the 1989 Revolutions](#). Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.
- **05.12.2022** Lecture « [Bonding vs. Bridging and Linking Social Capital](#) » by Katalin Füzér
- **10.11.2022 Working paper** "Wartime EU: Consequences of the Russia – Ukraine war on the enlargement process" by Veronica Anghel and Jelena Džankić
- **If you want to be included in the mailing list or have suggestions and ideas for the group, please contact the group coordinator**