



Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, don Frana Bulića 4, Dubrovnik
Divided Societies XXVI: Autocracy and Totalitarianism
 5 – 11 May 2025

About the Course

The course, which is entering its twenty-seventh year in 2025, is an interdisciplinary workshop that combines conference-oriented presentation of scholarly research with an intensive and rigorous academic programme for advanced graduate and postgraduate students. In addition, the course offers personal intercultural experience of students and faculty from other contexts in the unforgettable setting of a city that was itself the target of a destructive societal conflict.

Programme

Monday May 5	09:45 – 10:00	Saša Božić	Introduction to the course
	10:00 – 11:20	Lecture Reynolds Scott-Childress	Ask What Your Country Can Do for You: Transactional Nationalism and the Right-wing American Rejection of Racial-Colour Categories
	11:40 – 13:00	Lecture Saša Božić	Explaining How Autocracies Emerge: Contributions from the Sociology of Emotions
	13:00 – 15:00	Break	
	15:00 – 16:20	Lecture Nikola Petrović	Historical Legacies of Authoritarian Regimes and Contemporary Radicalisation
	16:30 – 17:00	Highlights of the day	Joint discussion
Tuesday May 6	10:00 – 11:20	Lecture Mojca Pajnik	The Authoritarian Playbook: Media Instrumentalisation and the Struggle for Autonomous Journalism
	11:40 – 13:00	Lecture Marco Wedel	AI and the Legitimation of Power: Who is in Charge? The Struggle for Oversight, Control, and Autonomy
	13:00 – 15:00	Break	
	15:00 – 16:20	Lecture Filip Fila	Show Me Your Friends and I'll Tell You Who You Are: Geopolitical Preferences in the EU as a Correlate of Authoritarianism?
	16:30 – 17:00	Highlights of the day	Joint discussion
Wednesday May 7	10:00 – 11:20	Lecture Daphne Winland	The Will of Ethnos in Autocratic Regimes
	11:40 – 13:00	Lecture Simona Kuti	Migration and Authoritarianism
	13:00 – 15:00	Break	
	15:00 – 16:20	Lecture Mitja Žagar	Can Democracy Survive the Age of Populism, Autocracy and Totalitarianism?
	16:30 – 17:00	Highlights of the day	Joint discussion
Thursday May 8	10:00 – 12:00	Optional visit to War Photo Limited (museum of war and conflict photography)	
	12:00 – 18:00	Break	

	18:00 – 19:30	Lecture and discussion Tibi Galis	Atrocity Prevention in Today's Increasingly Authoritarian Context
	19:30 –	Reception at the IUC atrium	
Friday May 9	10:00 – 11:20	Lecture Liutauras Gudžinskas	Strategies for Democratic Resilience: Lessons from the Baltic Countries
	11:40 – 13:00	Lecture Vuk Vukotić	Linguistics as Politics of Difference: How Linguists Use Arbitrary Linguistic Data as Nationalist Arguments
	13:00 – 15:00	Break	
	15:00 – 16:20	Lecture Mislav Dević	Dual Sovereign: The Vertical Dimension of Autocracy
	16:30 – 17:00	Highlights of the day	Joint discussion
Saturday May 10	10:00 – 11:20	PhD, MA, and Graduate Students' Presentations	Maximum 15 minutes per presentation
	11:30 – 13:00	PhD, MA, and Graduate Students' Presentations	Maximum 15 minutes per presentation
	13:00 – 15:00	Break	
	15:00 – 16:20	PhD, MA, and Graduate Students' Presentations	Maximum 15 minutes per presentation
	16:30 – 17:00	Evaluation and wrap up	Certificate awarding
Sunday May 11	10:00 – 12:00	Course directors' meeting	Planning for the next year