



HUNT ON DEMOCRACIES: UNMASKING RADICALIZATION AND NAVIGATING THE NEW WORLD ORDER

UGSPN-Conference

June 13-14, 2024



f Security, Policy & Nationalism
Research Center (UGSPN)

 <https://ugspn.org/>



The University Of Georgia **f**
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HUNT ON DEMOCRACIES: UNMASKING RADICALIZATION AND NAVIGATING THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Agenda

13 June, 2024

09:30 - Registration

10:00 - **Opening Speech** Konstantine Topuria Rector, The University of Georgia
Keynote Speaker – João Gomes Cravinho, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

10:30 – 12:00 **PANEL I Security Update: Russia and the Black Sea Region Two Years After the Ukraine War**

This panel will provide a comprehensive update on the security landscape in the Black Sea region, with a particular focus on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Experts will evaluate the strategic shifts, military developments, and geopolitical consequences of the war. The discussion will also cover regional security initiatives and the role of international actors in promoting stability.

Moderator

Dr. Lasha Dzebisashvili

Professor at the University of Georgia

Speakers:

Dr. Frederic Labarre

Adjunct Professor at Royal Military College of Canada

Dr. Yevgeniya Gaber

Professor of National Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

Matthias Dembinski

Senior Researcher at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

Dr. Mustafa Aydın

Professor of International Relations at Kadir Has University

12:00 – 12:15 **Coffee Break**

Panel II Research Presentation & Panel Discussion - Challenges to Democracy: Unraveling Global Trends in Radicalization

12:15 – 12:30 **Section I**

Research Presentation: The Radical Right and Youth in Georgia: Networks, Mechanisms and Tendencies of Radicalization

The extensive research conducted by the Security, Policy & Nationalism Research Center (UGSPN) unveiling the tendencies of radicalization amongst the Georgian young adults will be presented. Drawing on first-hand qualitative data, the study offers insights into the motivational factors influencing youth, mechanisms of (self-)recruitment and mobilization, and provides best international practices alongside tailored recommendations for de-radicalization.

12:30 – 14:00 Section II

Challenges to Democracy: Unraveling Global Trends in Radicalization

This panel will focus on the rising trends of radicalization within Western democracies and Eastern European countries like Georgia, analyzing how these movements threaten democratic norms and influence electoral outcomes worldwide. It will explore the factors driving radicalization among youth, including their motivations and the recruitment strategies employed by radical groups. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of media communications online, which have facilitated the spread of radical right ideologies. The discussion will be particularly relevant given the 2024 electoral landscape, marked by a significant number of national elections and the increasing presence of radical right-wing parties. By examining these issues, the panel aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how radicalization impacts democratic processes and what this means for future political stability globally.

Moderator

Nino Gozalishvili

Academic Director of UGSPN
(University of Georgia)

Speakers:

Dr. Katrine Fangen

Professor at the University of Oslo

Andreas Onnerfors

Project Manager at Fojo Media Institute

Dr. Constantin Iordachi

Professor at the Central European University

14:00 – 15:00 – Lunch Break

15:00 – 16:30 Panel III Unlocking Opportunities for All: European Enlargement and Expanding Horizons

Exploring the prospects and challenges of European enlargement, this panel will analyze the political, economic, and social implications for both current and potential member states. Participants will discuss the integration processes, policy frameworks, and the broader impact of European Union expansion on regional stability and development

Moderator

Giorgi Rukhadze

Founding member and Director of European Studies at GSAC

Speakers:

Vladislav Kulminski

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova

Jakob Hedenskog

Analyst at Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies

Amb. Gigi Gigiadze

Senior Fellow at the Economic Policy
Research Center (EPRC)

14 June, 2024

10:30 – Welcome Coffee

11:00 – 11:30 **Panel IV** **Global Electoral Dynamics: Navigating the Interplay Between Authoritarian and Democratic Forces in the New World Order**

Discussion with Keynote Speaker - João Gomes Cravinho Former, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal

Moderator **Nata Koridze** - Managing Editor at Civil.ge

11:30 – 13:00 – **Panel Discussion** Global Electoral Dynamics: Navigating the Interplay Between Authoritarian and Democratic Forces

In this election super-year of 2024, marked by eighty-three national elections in seventy-eight states, this panel will explore the global rise of populism, nationalism, and authoritarian policies. Participants will analyze how these trends are reshaping electoral landscapes worldwide, challenging democratic norms, and influencing governance. The discussion will focus on the interplay between authoritarian and democratic forces, examining the strategies used by authoritarian regimes to impact elections and the measures democracies can adopt to counter these influences and protect electoral integrity.

Moderator **Regis Gente** – Journalist

Speakers: **Graham Brookie** - Vice President and Senior Director at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab

Jeffrey Mankoff - Distinguished Research Fellow at the U.S. National Defense University

Paul Dziatkowicz - Expert at Geneva Center for Security Policy

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Panel V** **Round Table Discussion: Georgian Politics, Risks, Perceptions and Reality**

This roundtable will bring together political decision-makers to discuss the implications of global rivalries on Georgia's electoral landscape. The conversation will highlight how international political dynamics shape local elections, the challenges faced by Georgian democracy, and potential policy responses to ensure free and fair electoral processes amidst external pressures.

Moderator

Giorgi Targamadze - Journalist (TV Formula)

Speakers:

Zurab Japaridze - Chairman of "Girchi More Freedom"

Kakhaber Kemoklidze - Political Secretary of "For Georgia"

Giorgi Vashadze - Chairman of "Strategy Aghmashenebeli"

Ana Natsvlishvili - Political Council Member of "Lelo"

Nika Gvaramia - Co-chairman of "Akhali"

Tinatin Bokuchava - Head of the "United National Movement" faction

Giga Bokeria - Chairman of "European Georgia"

About Security, Policy & Nationalism Research Center (UGSPN)



The Security, Policy & Nationalism Research Center (UGSPN) represents a synthesis of expertise in security, policy, nationalism studies and research. Established within the School of Social Sciences of the University of Georgia, with the vision of becoming a leading institution, UGSPN strives to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to understanding, researching, and influencing policy in the realms of national security, defense, and nationalism studies.

Mission

UGSPN is dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering critical discussions on national security, policy challenges, and the multifaceted dimensions of nationalism. Our mission is to strengthen intellectual contributions empirical research and promoting evidence-based policy solutions, as well as nurturing a deep understanding of nationalism and security within the academic and public spheres.

Vision

Our vision is to emerge as a globally recognized center of excellence that shapes policy narratives, contributes innovative research, and facilitates informed discussions on the intersections of security, policy, and nationalism. UGSPN aspires to be a hub for intellectual cooperation, engaging with local, regional, and international stakeholders to address complex challenges and contribute to the broader academic and policy landscape.

According to UGSPN Mission and Vision, the Center engages in following activities:

Annual UGSPN Conference: Hosting a major annual event, bringing together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss critical issues in security and nationalism.

Research, Publications & UGSPN Quarterly Journal: Conducting and publishing research papers, policy briefs, and analytical reports on topics relevant to our focus areas.

Public Lectures and Seminars: Organizing public lectures and seminars featuring renowned experts to disseminate knowledge and stimulate public discourse.

Simulation Exercises & Educational Programs: Offering educational programs, including certificate, minor programs and workshops, to students and professionals interested in nationalism studies and policy.

Networking and Collaboration: Expanding regional and international connections, fostering collaborations with academic institutions, think tanks, and policymakers.



Concept Note

UG Security, Policy & Nationalism Research Center (UGSPN)
and School of Social Sciences at the University
of Georgia Annual Conference:

HUNT ON DEMOCRACIES: UNMASKING RADICALIZATION AND NAVIGATING THE NEW WORLD ORDER

The year 2024 promises to be full of tectonic geopolitical changes and paradigmatic overturns in under-standing the general fabric of politics (local, national, or global). With the eighty-three national elections in seventy-eight states, 2024 is marked to be a monumental year not only for “testing democracies” but also for scrutinizing the “new normalcy” in global politics. Met with the nearly unprecedented representation of the radical powers and ideas, political scientists and decision-makers, among others, are now to be particu-larly observant of the novel challenges to the democratic standards globally as they are reinterpreted and misappropriated by the authoritarian and illiberal powers worldwide. Societies, states, and institutions will bear the effects of these changes that are mainly linked to the rise of global authoritarianism and its claim of all encompassing dominance.

Elections in the US and Europe, Ukraine’s fight for national survival against the Kremlin’s armies, and the quest for future integrational strategies in the South Caucasus and the wider Black Sea region beg for proper analysis and policy suggestions. The forthcoming conference promises a nuanced exploration of global dynamics, addressing challenges faced by democracies amidst evolving global political and youth radicaliza-tion trends. Participants will engage in insightful discussions on the intricate interplay between authoritarian and democratic forces within the shifting landscape of the New World Order. The discourse will extend to opportunities and challenges associated with European enlargement. A dedicated segment will provide a timely update on security matters, particularly focusing on developments in the Black Sea region as well as that of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. The conference also seeks to explore the intricate interplay between global political dynamics and the electoral landscape in Georgia. The final roundtable brings together politi-cal decision-makers to engage in a dynamic discourse on the impact of global rivalries on Georgia’s upcom-ing elections.

The conference invites prominent scholars, thinkers, and political decision-makers to combine efforts in identifying challenges and formulating promising frameworks, a kind of global answer, and solutions.

Please note:

1. Any statements, opinions, or viewpoints expressed by the conference speakers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of the University of Georgia or UGSPN.
2. The conference is designed to serve as an independent platform for academic discussion and debate. It aims to bring together scholars, policymakers, and experts from around the world to engage in rigorous analysis and exchange of ideas on pressing global issues.