

MOOC “TRANSITOLOGY – PATHWAYS TO AND FROM DEMOCRACY”

LECTURERS AND EXPERTS



Arusyak Aleksanyan, Head of the Research Unit, Lecturer at the Center for European Studies, Yerevan State University.

Dr. Arusyak Aleksanyan is the Head of the Research Unit at the Center for European Studies and Associate Professor at Chair of Political Science of Yerevan State University. As lecturer and researcher, in the framework of the Global Campus of Human Rights, she has led work on “The Influence of Diaspora on Democracy-Building Processes: Behavioural Diversity” and “Enabling Learning to Happen for All Children in Emergency Crisis”. She previously conducted research as National Senior Expert on Statistics and Data Collation for developing an index within the UNDP “Modern Parliament for a Modern Armenia (MAP)” Project.

Arusyak is the author of around 70 scientific articles and research pieces including the development of political system stability assessment model (Stability Index of Political System - SIPS) and the model of democracy level evaluation (Index of Democracy Level - IDL) as well as their application for scaling and ranking of different countries (for more information see <http://regionalmaster.net/our-researches/>). She is also author of Index of Parliament Perception within the framework of the UNDP project “Modern Parliament for Modern Armenia” and coauthor of Education Preparedness Index in COVID-19 (EPIC) <http://ces.am/education-preparedness-index-in-covid-19/>.



Mozn Hassan, NAZRA, Right Livelihood Laureate 2016

Mozn Hassan is a women’s rights defender in Egypt who advocates for the inclusion of women’s voices and gender perspectives into the political discourse in the Middle East and North Africa region. After finishing her studies, Hassan joined ten other young Egyptian activists to found NAZRA for Feminist Studies, a group that nurtures young feminists and aims to contribute to the continuity and development of the Egyptian and regional feminist movement.

In 2016, Mozn and NAZRA received the Right Livelihood Award “For asserting the equality and rights of women in circumstances where they are subject to ongoing violence, abuse and discrimination.”

Through its unique Women’s Political Participation Academy, NAZRA has mentored female candidates from several political parties to enhance women’s political participation. NAZRA also interacts with labour unions, professional associations, student unions and groups, political movements, and local councils to integrate women’s issues in their work and support female candidates running for positions in these institutions. During the 2011 parliamentary elections, NAZRA supported 16 women candidates hailing from underprivileged regions of Egypt. Despite overwhelming challenges, one of these women was elected to parliament.

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Damir Kapidžić, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Damir Kapidžić is an Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research examines how democratic and authoritarian politics are institutionalised in the context of ethnic conflict, power-sharing, and democratic innovations. He focuses on the processes in Southeast European countries with comparative perspectives from Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East.

As a consultant, he designed several deliberative processes and advocate for citizens' assemblies. He is a member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, a principal investigator of EU Horizon—Contexts of Extremism in MENA and Balkan Societies, and an editor of the book *Illiberal Politics in Southeast Europe* (2022, Routledge).



Wolfgang Merkel, Emeritus Professor at WZB, Senior Scholar at the Democracy Institute of the Central European University in Budapest

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel has been Director of the department “Democracy and Democratisation” at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) and Professor of Political Science at the Humboldt University Berlin from 2004-2020. He also has been Professor of Political Science at the Universities of Mainz (1995-1998) and the University of Heidelberg. He held visiting professorships at the Universities in Madrid, Sidney, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin. Since 2021, he serves as a senior scholar at the Democracy Institute/CEU in Budapest.

He is the author of the book *Demokratie und Krise* (ed. 2015); *The Future of Representative Democracy* (2011, co-authors: Sonia Alonso and John Keane) and *The Capacity to Reform* (2008). He has published over 200 scientific papers on the topics of democracy and democratization, dictatorships in the 21st century, political parties, comparative public policies, the future of social democracy, the welfare state and social justice.

He is and has been a member of a number of academic key bodies, including the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He is also a non-party member of the Basic Values Commission of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD). He has been a political advisor to several social democratic governments in Europe.



Anja Mihr, MOOC Scientific Coordinator, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Anja Mihr (Ph.D.) is DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She is a professor of Human Rights, Governance, Public Policy and Transitional Justice. She founded the Center on Governance through Human Rights at the Berlin Governance Platform in Berlin, Germany, and held professorships at the Willy-Brandt School of Public Policy, Erfurt University, Germany, and at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), University

of Utrecht, Netherlands.

Anja has been Head of the Rule of Law department at The Hague Institute for Global Justice and carried out several Visiting Professorships for Human Rights at Peking University Law School in China and Columbia



University in New York. Until 2008 she was the Program Director for EMA at EIUC, today Global Campus, and in 2001 received her Ph.D. in Political Sciences from the Free University in Berlin. She has also been the principal investigator and research director of various research projects, such as the EU FP7 Human Rights project and the ORA project on the Impact of Transitional Justice on democratic institution-building.

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Thomas Millar, Team Leader, Democratic Governance, DG INTPA, European Commission

Tom Millar is Team Leader for Democratic Governance in unit G1 (Gender Equality, Human Rights & Democratic Governance) of DG INTPA.

Before joining the unit in 2016, he worked on governance and democracy issues in EU Delegations in Nigeria, Jamaica and Uganda, as head of both political and operational sections. His first post with the EU was in the 90s, working in the EU Delegation in Ukraine, before (briefly) working in the private sector.

He has degrees from Oxford University and the London School of Economics, as well as an MBA from INSEAD.



Leonardo Morlino, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at LUISS, Rome

Leonardo Morlino is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at LUISS, Rome, and former President of International Political Science Association (IPSA).

He has extensively published on empirical democratic theory. His most recent books include: *Disuguaglianza e Democrazia* (Mondadori 2022), *L'illusione della scelta. Come si manipola l'opinione pubblica*, with M. Sorice (Luiss University Press, 2021), *Equality, Freedom, and Democracy. Europe After the Great Recession* (Oxford UP, 2020), *Comparison. An Methodological Introduction for the Social Sciences* (B.Budrich, 2018). *The Impact of Economic Crisis on South European Democracies* (Palgrave, 2017), *La Calidad de la Democracia en America Latina* (IDEA, 2016), *Changes for Democracy. Actors, Structures and Processes* (Oxford UP, 2012).

He has also been one of the three directors of the *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (8 voll. Sage Publications, 2011) and co-editor of the *Handbook of Political Science* (3 voll., Sage Publications, 2020).





Jacqueline Moudeina, Right Livelihood laureate 2011

Jacqueline Moudeina is a lawyer who brought former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré to justice and ensured accountability for the crimes committed. She has also been engaged on a wide range of human rights issues concerning Chad today. In 2011 she received the Right Livelihood Award “for her tireless efforts at great personal risk to win justice for the victims of the former dictatorship in Chad and to increase awareness and observance of human rights in Africa.”

With her commitment to justice as a prerequisite for reconciliation and her dedication to intervene from the grassroots level up to international jurisdiction, she has made a crucial contribution to promoting respect for human rights in Africa. Moudeina turned to the innovative use of international criminal law, eventually leading to Habré being convicted of crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture in 2016. Thus, she has proved to be a pioneer on the ground, never tiring of seeking new paths, and stands today as a role model for developing international legal practice from inside a country affected by grave violations of human rights.

In 2002, Moudeina received the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, followed, in 2013, by the Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism, given by Human Rights Watch. She was also appointed Knight of the French Legion of Honor in 2011 and awarded the Franco-German Human Rights Prize in 2016. In 2021 she was named as one of the 100 most influential African women by Avance Media.

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Pippa Norris, Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Founding Director of the Electoral Integrity Project

Prof. Pippa Norris is a comparative political scientist who has taught at Harvard for three decades. She is the Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the [John F. Kennedy School of Government](#), Harvard University, and Founding Director of the [Electoral Integrity Project](#), Director of the [Global Party Survey](#), Co-Director of the [TrustGov Project](#) and Vice-President of the [World Values Survey](#).

Her research compares public opinion and elections, political institutions and cultures, gender politics, and political communications in many countries worldwide. She is ranked the 2nd most cited political scientist worldwide, according to [Google scholar](#). Major career honors include, amongst others, the [Skytte prize](#), IPSA’s [Karl Deutsch](#) award, fellowship of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, APSA’s Charles Merriam award, APSA’s Warren E. Miller award, and APSA’s Samuel Eldersfeld lifetime achievement award, and the PSA’s [Sir Isaiah Berlin](#) award, as well as several book awards and honorary doctorates.

She has published around fifty books (many subsequently translated into dozens of languages). Her most recent publications include *In Praise of Skepticism* (2022), *Cultural Backlash* (2019, with Inglehart), *Strengthening Electoral Integrity* (2017), *Why Elections Fail* (2015), *Why Electoral Integrity Matters* (2014), *Making Democratic Governance Work: The Impact of Regimes on Prosperity, Welfare and Peace* (2012), *Democratic Deficits: Critical Citizens Revisited* (2011). For full details, see her [biography](#).

