

“You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone”

What to Preserve in Times of Crisis, and How?

A ‘Europe’s Futures’ Panel Discussion on upholding democracy in Europe today with Ivan Vejvoda, Ilir Deda, Kadri Liik, Hanna Shelest and Karolina Wigura, hosted by the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Peace, Security and Justice

The Great Hall, Queen’s University Belfast

0930-1100, Thursday 18th April 2024



Photo credit: Ian O'Neill (QUB)

‘Defending democracy against the rise of authoritarianism’ is a challenge that is both urgent and live across Europe today. We are used to considering Northern Ireland’s democracy as being ‘fragile’ but we have still to comprehend the challenges to that which come from outside and above us, rather than within or beneath us.

This panel seeks to take experience and evidence from democracies old and new that have faced the consequences of overt efforts to destroy the democratic pillars: Austria, Poland, Estonia, Kosovo and Ukraine. The discussion will be between a visiting group from ‘[Europe’s Futures: Ideas for Action](#)’ - a network of prominent academics, activists and journalists engaged as fellows under the auspices of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna. In asking ‘what to preserve in times of crisis and how’, the Fellows will be drawing upon vivid examples of lived experience as well as intellectual analysis.

After an initial conversation between the Fellows, members of the invited audience from academic, diplomatic, political and civil society in Northern Ireland will be encouraged to respond and to ask questions. We hope a constructive dialogue will ensue. The panel has been convened by Professor Katy Hayward, a current Europe’s Future Fellow and Mitchell Fellow, and will be chaired by Professor Alister Miskimmon, a Fellow of the Mitchell Institute and expert in European security and strategy.

Please register online via: <https://tinyurl.com/EuropesFuturesBelfast>

What to Preserve in Times of Crisis, 18 April 2024: Panellist Biographies

Welcome: Professor Richard English, Director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast

Chair: Professor Alister Miskimmon

Alister Miskimmon is Professor of International Relations at Queen's University Belfast. His research interests are primarily in the areas of strategic narrative, German, European and global security issues and European integration.

Panellists:



Ilir Deda has extensive work experience in national, regional, and international public and nongovernmental institutions. His work has influenced decision-making and policy development at the national and international level in Kosovo and the Western Balkans within the framework of the Berlin Process and the implementation of the Common Regional Market. He has worked at the Regional Cooperation Council, served as a two-term elected member of the Assembly of Kosovo, led the KIPRED Institute in Pristina, and been a researcher at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and an analyst for the International Crisis Group in Kosovo. He has also served as chief of staff to Kosovo's President Atifete Jahjaga. *Europe's Futures*

project: The Impact of the EU-Sponsored Basic Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia on Stabilization, Democratization, and Integration of the Western Balkans



Kadri Liik is a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations with a research focus on Russia, Eastern Europe, and the Baltic region. She joined ECFR in 2012, after her term as the director of the International Centre for Defence Studies in Estonia from 2006 until 2011, where she also worked as a senior researcher and director of the Lennart Meri Conference. Throughout the 1990s, she worked as a Moscow correspondent for several Estonian daily papers. In 2002, she became the foreign news editor at Postimees. In 2004, she left to become editor-in-chief at the monthly foreign affairs magazine, Diplomaatia. She was also the host of Välismääraja, a current affairs talk show at Raadio Kuku in Tallinn. *Europe's Futures*

project: Russia's Capacity for Self-Correction: Where Did It Come From and Where Did It Go?

What to Preserve in Times of Crisis, 18 April 2024: Panellist Biographies



Hanna Shelest is Security Studies Program Director at the Foreign Policy Council Ukrainian Prism and editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica. She is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington. Previously, she served as a senior researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine, Odesa Branch, for more than ten years. In 2014, she was a visiting research fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome. She was an adviser of the working group preparing the Ukrainian Navy Strategy 2035 and was involved in working groups developing the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, the Asian Strategy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ukraine's NATO Public

Communication Strategy. She has led different policy-related projects, most recently 'Ukraine-NATO: Enhanced Level, and Foreign Policy Recommendations for the Parliament of Ukraine'.

Europe's futures project: The Political Spectrum of the Right, Authoritarianism and the Reaction to the Russo-Ukrainian War



Ivan Vejvoda is Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, and head of the Europe's Futures programme. Before joining IWM in 2017, Vejvoda was Senior Vice President for Programs at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States. From 2003 until 2010, he served as Executive Director of GMF's Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions in South-Eastern Europe. Vejvoda came to GMF in 2003 after distinguished service in the Serbian government as a senior advisor on foreign policy and

European integration to Prime Ministers Zoran Djindjic and Zoran Zivkovic. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the Belgrade-based Fund for an Open Society from 1998 to 2002.

Vejvoda was a key figure in the democratic opposition movement in Yugoslavia during the 1990s, and has published widely on the subjects of democratic transition, totalitarianism, and post-war reconstruction in the Balkans.



Karolina Wigura is a member of the board of the Kultura Liberalna Foundation in Warsaw, and a senior fellow of the Center for Liberal Modernity in Berlin. She is a lecturer at Warsaw University's Institute of Sociology and a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, Wigura was a co-director of the Polish Programme at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. She is the author of *The Guilt of Nations: Forgiveness as a Political Strategy* (2011) and *The Invention of Modern Heart: Philosophical Sources of Contemporary Thinking of Emotions* (2019). Her latest publication,

co-authored with Jarosław Kuisz, has been published by Suhrkamp under the title *Posttraumatische Souveränität. Ein Essay [Post-traumatic Sovereignty]* (2023). *Europe's Futures project: Collective Emotions in Times of Global Crises*.