

8-9 September 2022

Russian Regional Politics: The Kremlin, Regional Actors and Regime Longevity prior to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine (2018-2022)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 8th September 2022

9.00 am registration

9.15 am

Panel One:

The macro-picture: Political reform and the transformation of the Putin system (2018-2022)

- Nikolay Petrov, Chatham House, UK. *The Question of Regime Transformation and the Regions*
- Vladimir Gel'man Helsinki University, Finland. *The Politics of Bad Governance in Contemporary Russia*
- Ben Noble, University College London, Putin, Personalism, and the Role of Political Institutions

10:45 am COFFEE BREAK

11.00 am Panel Two:

Preserving power: electoral engineering, the party of power and governance in regional political systems

- Mikhail Turchenko, Helsinki University, Finland. *Electoral Engineering in Russian Regions and Its Unintended Consequences (2014-2021)*
- Margarita Zavadskaya, Helsinki University, Finland. *The Big Merger of Municipalities and Local Autonomy: Evidence from the Russian Municipal Data*
- Tatiana Tkacheva, Independent Scholar, *Sources of Authoritarian Consolidation: Early Dismissals of Regional Governors, Protests, and Political Regime Dynamics in Russia, 2013-2018*

12.30 – 1.30 pm LUNCH

1.30 pm Panel Three:

Contesting Power: opposition and social movements across Russia's diverse regions

- Andrey Semenov, MacMillan Center, Yale University. *Breaking Electoral Autocracy's Chains: Urban Electoral Coalitions in Russia*
- Alexandra Rumiantseva, University College London, *Roots of Electoral Success of the Communists in 2021*
- Eleonora Minaeva, European University Institute in Florence, *Subnational Variation in Authoritarian Electoral Mobilization*
- Anisya Khokhlova, Independent Scholar, *Social Movement Fields: Building Strategic Alliances in Conflicts over Contested Spaces in Russian Cities*

3:00pm COFFEE BREAK

3:15pm Roundtable:

The Future of Political Science Research Cooperation between Russia and the West: Immediate and Longer-term Concerns

4.45pm END OF DAY ONE

7.45pm CONFERENCE DINNER

Friday 9th September: Thematic Panels

10:00am Panel Four

Civil society development in the regions: the impact of new laws and remaining democratic enclaves across Russia's regions

- Geir Flikke, Oslo University, Norway. *«Nepravomernyi anti-ekstremizm» — the Evolution of Russian Repressive Legislation and Consequences for Civil Society and Protest Movements.*
- Mikhail Ilchenko, GWZO-Leibniz Institute, Leipzig University, *Urban Activism in Russia: New Protest Activities or Illusion of Politics? The Case of Yekaterinburg*
- Sergej Ljubownikow, Sheffield University, UK. *Shrinking Enclaves of Civil Society: Restrictions, Resources and Responses from the Micro-level*
- Yulia Skokova, Independent Scholar. *Regional Variation in the Erosion of Civil Society*

11:30am MORNING COFFEE

11:45am Panel Five:

Regime legitimization strategies and public resonance: values and attitudes

- Matthew Blackburn, Uppsala University, Sweden. *Fortress Russia and the Politics of Loyalty: Ideological Hardening and the Securitisation of Patriotism (2018-2022)*
- Maxim Alyukov, King's College London, *Harnessing Distrust: News, Credibility Heuristics, and War in an Authoritarian Regime*
- Anastasia Nikolskaya, Independent Scholar. *The War of Values after the Invasion of Ukraine*
- Andrey Scherbak, Independent Scholar. *From the Red Belt to the Bible Belt: Religiosity and Voting in Russia in 2012-2021*

1.15pm LUNCH

2:15pm Panel Six:

Regional economic development and Russia's emerging model of federalism

- Michael Rochlitz, University of Bremen. *The Economic Consequences of a Limited Access Order: Evidence from Russia*
- Noah Buckley, Trinity College Dublin. *Bad Eggs or Bad Apples?: Corruption Arrests and Public Opinion in Russia"?*
- David Szakonyi, George Washington University. *Hidden Earnings in an Authoritarian Parliament: Evidence from Russia*

3.45pm CLOSING REMARKS