

Call for Papers
EISA's 10th European Workshops in International Studies, Amsterdam 12-14 July 2023

Workshop Title: **Democratic and authoritarian regimes under strain: the impact of crises on political change**

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The crisis of democracy in the West is not new and has been studied since the 1970s (Crozier et al. 1975; Linz, 1978). Over the past decade, a rich body of literature has developed on democratic erosion and authoritarian entrenchment worldwide (Gerschewski 2021, Boese et al. 2021). However, whereas scholars have taken an interest in the scope (Lührmann 2021, Boese et al. 2021) and sequencing (Kneuer 2021) of this “third wave of autocratisation” (Lührmann and Lindberg 2019), less attention has been paid to the interplay between, on the one hand, transformations in the nature of the political systems, and on the other hand recent (economic, environmental, societal) crises, conflicts and wars. This is surprising given the sheer volatility and overall abrupt deterioration of the economic and geopolitical environment worldwide. Whereas the effect of economic crises on political change throughout the 20th century is well documented (Gasiorowski 1995), the scholarly interest in the effect of the multiple crises of the 21st century on the national political space has been limited (Kriesi, 2018; Hutter and Kriesi, 2019; Morlino & Quaranta, 2016; Diamond, 2011; Soliman, 2011). Most studies have focused on political transformations in Western European countries, particularly in the context of the economic/financial crises of 2008. Scholars have yet to make sense of how the ongoing multiple crises and local political regime dynamics affect each other, especially in countries beyond the West.

This workshop seeks to make sense of the current dynamics unravelling at the EU's borders by adopting a holistic approach. We are interested in crises resulting from different predicaments originating in different domains - the economy, environment, society, inter-state relations, etc. – and their impact on political change or non-change.

- How, and through which mechanisms, do crises and conflicts affect political transformations (or lack thereof) in a given region? Do they shake the foundations of the domestic political order, or rather consolidate existing regimes?
- How do (semi-) democratic and authoritarian regimes perform in times of crises and conflicts?
- How do crises and conflicts affect the role of international actors such as the UN, the EU, the IFIs, global and regional powers in influencing political, economic and social reforms?

The workshop seeks contributions identifying and examining in a conceptually informed manner the effects of various crises on political regimes in the wider European neighbourhood through single case studies, intra-regional comparisons or inter-regional comparisons from the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and the Middle East and North Africa. Our analysis will contribute to advancing the state of the art by cross-fertilising the scholarship on political change and that on crises, defined as a turning point (of various origins and nature) in a country's situation.