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Call for papers / 2025 EWIS workshops, Krakow

Conservatism, populism, nationalism, authoritarianism? Untangling the global transformations of right-wing politics

Global right-wing politics is currently undergoing a major transformation, both in the consolidated democracies of the Global North and in the Global South. Themes once associated with the far right, like strong nationalism, ethnic, racial or religious supremacism and authoritarianism are becoming mainstream. At the same time, core tenets of the 20th century mainstream right, such as free market economics and support for multilateralism, are increasingly questioned from within the Right itself.

While scholars have developed hypotheses explaining the rise of these new authoritarian conservative forces, it remains unclear why they emerge under such different circumstances across world regions. We see such forces both in countries where many citizens feel like they are “losers” of economic globalization (US, UK) and in those where globalization is generally embraced (India). They thrive in countries under immigration pressure (Italy) and in those where immigration is less of an issue (Brazil). The new Right mobilizes narratives of national decline (Hungary) but it is also strong in states experiencing some of the most successful decades in their history (Poland). We even see thriving new right-wing narratives and intellectual networks in non-democratic environments like China and Russia.

This workshop aims to address the concurrent transformation of right-wing politics in multiple world regions by treating it as a global phenomenon linked to important structural changes in the international political and economic system. It therefore welcomes papers that examine all international dimensions of this transformation, including the cross-regional convergence in the ideological outlook of these new movements (but also persistent differences between them), their growing transnational connections, and the relevant international (material and ideational) factors that cause or enable this global trend.

Submitted papers may explore (but are not limited to) the following questions:

- Do we need new typologies to describe the new politics of the Right around the world? Is there one or multiple ‘Rights’ and how best to study them?
- What are the factors driving the global transformation of right-wing politics? Are they international, region-specific, national-idiosyncratic or a combination thereof?
- How can we theorize international/domestic linkages in the study of the global Right?
- What is the relative importance of economics and culture in this transformation?
- How can we understand the current juncture of international systemic change and domestic ideological change within the long-term evolution of international relations?
- What are the transnational linkages between global Right movements?
- Are there historical equivalents for such systemic/ideological change in international relations?
- What are the prospects for international order in a world dominated by the new Right? Does this political change presage a world of conflict or the building of new international order?

The workshop welcomes scholars of all career stages and aims to ensure the highest possible degree of diversity and representation (in terms of geography, gender etc.). It encourages theoretical and empirical, comparative and single-case papers that speak to the themes identified above, as well as methodologically sophisticated contributions.