

Politics from Below: Reasserting or Transcending the Democratic Paradigm?

ZOIS Online Conference 2021

Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS)

27 – 28 January 2021

ZOIS Conference 2021

What do recent regional or global trends of mass protests tell us about the state of democracy and authoritarianism and about state-society relations more generally? The ZOIS Conference 2021 explores the factors shaping recent waves of protest activism. Are there similarities in the strategies of mobilization used across regimes, spaces, countries and regions? What is the age profile of those who make themselves heard in different political settings around the world? What is the role of different off- and online-spaces enabling or constraining mobilization? Has Covid-19 changed the politics from below? Through dialogue between different academic disciplines and area expertise, the conference will assess whether regional and global trends of mobilization from below fit into a democratization paradigm or whether it constitutes a new, local and potentially more radical form of politics that transcends the dividing line between democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Programme

27 January 2021

2 pm

Opening

Gwendolyn Sasse, Christian Schaich

2.15 pm – 3.45 pm

Panel 1: Activism over Time

Michael Rasell (University of Lincoln): **A Latent Influence: Older People's Mobilisation and the Symbolic Role of their Interests in the Russian Federation**

Christos Varvantakis (Goldsmiths, University of London): **A Closer Look: Children, Families and Political Activism**

Tom Junes (European University Institute): **Whither the Student Movement in Poland?**

Discussant: Eeva Luhtakallio (University of Helsinki)

4.15 pm – 5.15 pm

Graduate Student Poster Session (incl. discussion with the students)

5.30 pm – 7 pm

Keynote Lecture (via Livestream)

Vectors of Contentious Mobilization: From Below, From Above, or Sideways?

Jan Kubik (Rutgers University/SSEES, University College London)

Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

You can access the stream under the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98396281724>

7 pm

(Virtual) Reception

28 January

1 pm – 2 pm

Public Panel Discussion: Politics from below: A Global Perspective

Graeme Robertson (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Olga Onuch (University of Manchester)

Richard Youngs (Carnegie Europe)

Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

You can access the stream under the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92904192912>

2.15 pm – 3.45 pm

Panel: Mobilisation and Regime Responses

Ildikó Bellér-Hann (University of Copenhagen): **Aspirations Crushed: Uyghurs in Reforming China**

Sofie Bedford (Uppsala University): **Opposition and State Relations in Azerbaijan: Ideological Hegemony versus the Perpetual Underdog**

Nadja Douglas (ZOiS): **Belarus: Mobilisation of State and Society in the Context of Crises**

Chair and Discussant: Jonas Wolff (HSFK, Frankfurt a. M.)

4.15 pm – 5.30 pm

Conversations around a (Virtual) Table: Parallel Sessions (Zoom Breakout-Sessions)

Table 1

Urban Spaces

Piotr Goldstein (ZOiS): **Broadening the Picture: Everyday and Invisible Activism in Serbia**

Oleg Pachenkov (European University at St. Petersburg): **From DIY Bottom-up Activism towards a New Meaning of the 'Political' in Russia**

Moderator: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)

Table 2

Transnational Spaces

Anna Ackermann (Ecoaction, Kyiv): **All Roads Lead to Brussels? An Environmental Activists' Perspective from Ukraine**

Adam Fagan (King's College London): **Civil Society Activism in an Age of 'Stabilitocracy', 'Backsliding' and Illiberal Politics.**

Aron Buzogány (Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien / Freie Universität Berlin): **Empty Spaces? New Localism and the Redefinition of Social Movement Activism in Hungary**

Moderator: Julia Langbein (ZOiS)

Room 3

Online/Digital Spaces of Activism

Katy Pearce (University of Washington): **Affordances of Social Media for Organizing in Authoritarian Spaces**

Zoya Falkova (Visual Artist, Almaty/Kazakhstan): N.N.

Moderator: Regina Elsner (ZOiS)

5.30 pm – 6 pm

Brief Summary of the Conversations and Closing Remarks