

**6<sup>th</sup> TBILISI  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

**SLAVA UKRAINI**

**GLORY TO**

**THE HEROES!**

**SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2022**  
**ROOMS HOTEL TBILISI**



6<sup>th</sup> TBILISI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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SLAVA  
UKRAINI!

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# ABOUT THE TBILISI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Since 2015, each September, the Tbilisi International Conference brings together regional experts on foreign policy, security and democracy issues, along with Georgian policymakers, civil society activists, and the business community – with a view toward keeping Georgia high on the transatlantic agenda, and on track in its democratic progress and transatlantic aspirations. Hosted in the heart of the Caucasus, the Conference has earned a reputation as a can't-miss event for leaders across Georgia, the United States and Europe.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Tbilisi International Conference – **Slava Ukraini** – will take place on September 5-6, 2022, Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, organized by the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) of Georgia, in partnership with the McCain Institute at Arizona State University and the George W. Bush Institute in Dallas, Texas.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has wreaked havoc and devastation on Ukraine first and foremost – hence the title of this year's conference – but also on the liberal international order. The implications extend well beyond the European continent and have global reach. The Conference will focus on the challenges posed by the invasion, and what it means for the region and beyond. We will look at the clash between democracy and authoritarianism and also examine domestic developments in Georgia and the United States.



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# ABOUT THE ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (EPRC)

Since its inception 20 years ago, EPRC has been relentlessly pursuing its mission: to strengthen democracy, promote security and foster economic development in Georgia through policy research and analysis, advocacy and awareness raising, and capacity building. The EPRC's mission reflects the consensus among Georgia's Western partners that a tangible and measurable progress towards robust liberal democracy is a necessary condition for sustainable inclusive economic growth and development for achieving prosperity of the country. It is also anchored in Georgia's status as a democratic frontline state in need of extra reinforcements for its free and prosperous future with Europe and against backsliding towards the autocratic past.

Working closely with the stakeholders and building coalitions with the civil society, private sector representatives, and international partners, EPRC has evolved into a prominent champion of the country's European future. The enduring reputation of the Center rests on its political independence and neutrality, and its demonstrated technical capacity to generate applied knowledge in response to economic and social challenges. The proven ability to deliver quality research & analysis, capacity building initiatives, high-profile events, attract global academic and political leaders, and build domestic network of change-makers adds to the value of the organization.

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# ABOUT THE MCCAIN INSTITUTE

Founded in 2012 as part of Arizona State University, the McCain Institute is located in the heart of Washington. Inspired by the leadership of Senator John McCain and his family's legacy of public service, the McCain Institute is a nonpartisan do-tank dedicated to advancing character-driven leadership in the United States and abroad.

The McCain Institute advances character-driven global leadership and civic engagement based on security, economic opportunity, freedom and human dignity.

The McCain Institute's five core programs include:

- Next Generation Leaders
- International Rule of Law & Security
- Combatting Human Trafficking
- Human Rights & Democracy
- Counterterrorism & National Security

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# ABOUT THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL CENTER AND INSTITUTE

Through policy solutions and public engagement, the George W. Bush Presidential Center ensures opportunity for all, strengthens democracy, and advances free societies. We combine ideas and action to improve the lives of people at home and around the world.

The Bush Institute is an action-oriented, nonpartisan policy organization that develops leaders, advances policy, and takes action to solve today's most pressing challenges. Our work is inspired by the principles that guide President and Mrs. Bush in public life.



# CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



## NINO EVGENIDZE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH  
CENTER (EPRC)

Nino Evgenidze serves as an Executive Director at the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC). She is a co-founder of Tbilisi International Conference together with McCain Institute for International Leadership and Leadership Academy for Development with Stanford University Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. Nino is also a co-founder of the Democracy Frontline Center. She is the publisher of the Georgian edition of the world known and influential magazine on foreign policy, international affairs, global economics, and military matters - The American Interest and The American Purpose.

Nino was a visiting scholar at the Johns Hopkins University at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a Stanford University Fellow in CDDRL Program. She has a Master's Degree in Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE). Nino is a PhD in Literature from Tbilisi State University. She also holds an MBA from Maastricht University and a Master's Degree in Public Policy Management from Vienna University.

She worked as an anchor of daily morning economic show at Radio Free Europe - Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). Nino has extensive experience working both in governmental and non-governmental sectors - she was an advisor at the Center for Economic Reforms of the State Chancellery of Georgia (President Administration), Head of Public Outreach Department of the Anti-corruption Policy Coordination Council of Georgia. Nino is a Chairwoman of the board of the first Child Hospice in Georgia.



## EVELYN N. FARKAS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCCAIN  
INSTITUTE AT ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Evelyn N. Farkas has three decades of experience working on national security and foreign policy in the U.S. executive, legislative branch, private sector and for international organizations overseas. In 2019-2020 she ran to represent New York's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the House of Representatives. She is currently the executive director of the McCain Institute at Arizona State University. Prior to that, she was president of Farkas Global Strategies and a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Atlantic Council and national security contributor for NBC/MSNBC.

She served from 2012 to 2015 as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia, Balkans, Caucasus and conventional arms control. From 2010 to 2012, she was the senior advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for the NATO Summit. Prior to that, she was the executive director of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism and senior fellow at the American Security Project. From 2001 to 2008, she served as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee responsible for Asia Pacific, Western Hemisphere, Special Operations Command, and policy issues including combatting terrorism and export control.

From 1997-2001, Dr. Farkas was a professor of international relations at the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College. She served 1996-97 in Bosnia with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She has published numerous journal articles and opinion pieces and "Fractured States and U.S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, Ethiopia, and Bosnia in the 1990s" (Palgrave/St. Martin's Press). She speaks Hungarian and German and has studied French, Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Russian and Hindi.

Dr. Farkas obtained her M.A. and Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She serves as a D.C. family court-appointed special advocate. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Directors for the Project 2049 Institute, Supporters of Civil Society in Russia, Leadership Council-Women in National Security, and the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, Franklin & Marshall College.



## DAVID J. KRAMER

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BRADFORD M. FREEMAN  
MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR  
GLOBAL POLICY AT THE GEORGE  
W. BUSH INSTITUTE

David J. Kramer serves as the Bradford M. Freeman Managing Director for Global Policy at the George W. Bush Institute. Prior to joining the Institute, he taught at Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, where he also was Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy and Director for European and Eurasian Affairs.

Before moving to Miami, Kramer worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, including as Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy with The McCain Institute for International Leadership; President of Freedom House; and Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Kramer also served eight years in the U.S. Department of State during the George W. Bush administration, including as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues); Professional Staff Member in the Secretary's Office of Policy Planning; and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Global Affairs. He also was Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in Washington. He is author of the book, *Back to Containment: Dealing with Putin's Regime*.

Kramer chairs the board of the Free Russia Foundation and serves on the board of the International Republican Institute. He also serves as a member of the Advisory Council for the Alliance for Securing Democracy at the German Marshall Fund of the United States; for Refugees International; for Foreign Policy for America; and is a Contributing Editor at the *The American Purpose*. A native of Massachusetts, Kramer received his M.A. in Soviet studies from Harvard University and his B.A. in Soviet Studies and Political Science from Tufts University.



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## HIROYUKI AKITA

NIKKEI

Hiroyuki Akita is a Commentator of Nikkei. He regularly writes commentaries and columns, analysis mainly on foreign & international security affairs. He joined Nikkei in 1987 and worked at Political News Dept. (98-2002) where he covered Japanese foreign & security policies, domestic politics. He was Senior & Editorial Staff Writer (2009-17), and he also worked at “Leader Writing Team” of the Financial Times in London (Oct-Dec, 17).

He was Beijing Correspondent (94-98) and Washington Chief Correspondent (2002-06). In Beijing, he reported major news events such as death of Deng Xiaoping, Hong Kong handover to China. In Washington DC, he covered White House & Pentagon, State Department during Bush administration.

He graduated from Jiyu Gakuen College in 1987 and Boston University (M.A.). From 2006 to 07, he was an associate of US-Japan Program at Harvard University, where he conducted a research on US-China-Japan relations. In March 2019, he won the Vaughn-Ueda International Journalist Award, a prize for outstanding reporting of international affairs. He is an author of two books in Japanese: “Anryu (Power Game of US-China-Japan)”(2008), “Ranryu (Strategic Competition of US-Japan and China)”(2016).



## NATALIA ARNO

FREE RUSSIA FOUNDATION

Ms. Natalia Arno is a prominent fighter for the advancement of democracy, human rights and freedom in her native country of Russia.

Originally from a Siberian region of Buryatia— where Natalia grew up and attended college, graduating from the Buryat State University with Masters in Linguistics in 1998 (Diploma *Cum Laude*). In 1998 -1999 she worked as Professor of English and German at Buryat State University. Natalia moved to Moscow in 1999 for her post-graduate study at the Institute of Russian Language of the Russian Academy of Science and in 2000-2003 she worked as a Linguistics Professor at the Modern Humanitarian University in Moscow.

From 2004 to 2014, Ms. Arno worked for the International Republican Institute's Moscow office, where she planned and executed countrywide programs in the fields of education, grassroots organizing, party building, civil society development, and youth leadership and media training. In 2008 she became the IRI Country Director for Russia, overseeing dozens of programs. In 2012, IRI, along with dozens of other Western democracy-building organizations were banned in Russia. For her work in support of human rights and civil society in Russia, Ms. Arno was given an ultimatum by Putin's security services— to leave her homeland in 48 hours or face 20 years in prison on treason charges.

Ms. Arno resolved to continue her fight and, in 2014, she created Free Russia Foundation to serve as a platform to defend others facing similar state-sponsored harassment for their beliefs on conditions inside Russia. In exile, she quickly discovered that Putin's regime had forced out hundreds of thousands of talented, educated Russians who share her vision for a free and democratic Russia that values human rights and restores Russia's former path as a constructive global citizen. Free Russia Foundation has served as a voice for those fighting to change the Putin regime and as a resource to Western governments struggling to combat an increasingly aggressive adversary. Today, Free Russia Foundation is a powerful global movement with centers in Washington, DC and Brussels; Kyiv and Lviv, Ukraine; Tbilisi, Georgia; Warsaw, Poland; Prague, the Czech Republic, Berlin, Germany; Vilnius, Lithuania and Tallinn, Estonia.



## ALI ASLAN

INTERNATIONAL TV PRESENTER,  
MODERATOR AND JOURNALIST

Ali Aslan is an internationally renowned TV presenter, moderator and journalist.

His international career in broadcast journalism spans more than two decades and three continents and includes work for CNN in Washington DC, ABC News in New York and Deutsche Welle TV in Berlin, where he hosted DW-TV's flagship talk show „Quadriga“, which reached over 200 countries and more than 100 million viewers weekly worldwide.

Aslan is one of the world's most sought-after moderators and Masters of Ceremonies of high-level international conferences & summits, including for the UN, the EU, the G20, the World Bank and the IMF.

Aslan has interviewed and shared the stage with presidents, prime ministers and leading personalities from all over the world, including former US President Bill Clinton, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellors Angela Merkel and Olaf Scholz, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, King Felipe of Spain, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, former US Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright and Philanthropist Melinda Gates.

Aslan earned two masters degrees in International Relations and Journalism from Columbia University in New York and a bachelor's degree in International Politics from Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Social Media:

Website: [www.aliaslan.de](http://www.aliaslan.de)

Twitter: [AslanTV](https://twitter.com/AslanTV)

Instagram: [aslantv](https://www.instagram.com/aslantv)

Facebook: [facebook.com/aslanali](https://facebook.com/aslanali)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/aliaslantv](https://linkedin.com/in/aliaslantv)



## DAN BAER

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### CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Dan Baer is senior vice president for policy research and director of the Europe Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He was a diplomatic fellow at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies from 2017 to 2019. He served in former governor John Hickenlooper's cabinet as executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education from 2018 to 2019. Under President Obama, he was U.S. ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from 2013 to 2017. Previously, he was a deputy assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor from 2009 to 2013. Before his government service, Baer was an assistant professor at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business, a faculty fellow at Harvard's Safran Center for Ethics, and a project leader at the Boston Consulting Group.

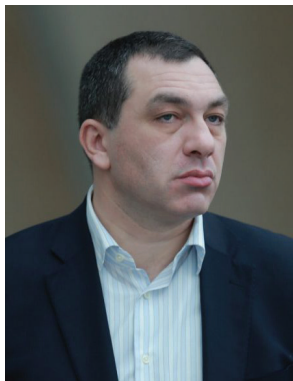
He has appeared on CNN, Fox, MSNBC, BBC, PBS Frontline, Al Jazeera, Sky, and the Colbert Report. His writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Politico*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Westword*, the *Denver Post*, and other publications. He holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a degree in social studies and African American studies from Harvard. He is married to Brian Walsh, an economist at the World Bank.



## MICHAL BARANOWSKI

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

Michal Baranowski is a senior fellow and the director of GMF's Warsaw office, where he provides overall strategic direction and leadership for the organization's work in Poland, the Baltic states, and the V4 countries. He writes and speaks extensively on NATO, transatlantic relations, and U.S. foreign policy, and is frequently quoted in outlets such as Associated Press, Financial Times, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Die Welt, Rzeczpospolita, Reuters, Axios, Le Soir, Washington Post and Foreign Affairs. He publishes in Polish, American, and European media and policy journals. He is a member of the Polish-German reflection group established by presidents of Poland and Germany. He holds a master's of European public affairs from Maastricht University, and has studied at Mercer University in the United States and the University of Oxford.



## GEORGE (GIGA) BOKERIA

### THE MOVEMENT FOR LIBERTY - EUROPEAN GEORGIA

Giga Bokeria is a prominent Georgian politician, who served as the member of the Parliament of Georgia in 2016-2020.

In 2010-2013 Mr. Bokeria served as a Secretary of the National Security Council; in 2008-2010 he served as a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and in 2005-2008 he held a position of the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In 2004-2008 he was elected as a Member of Parliament and was a Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Legal Issues, and Member of Committee on Defense and Security.

In 1996, he co-founded the Liberty Institute - the most vocal institution at the time that became most referenced public policy advocacy foundation. Mr. Bokeria led human rights programs and became a senior legal advisor. The Liberty Institute played a significant role in the Rose Revolution while Mr. Bokeria was one of its leaders and future architect of democratic transition of the country.

Mr. Bokeria studied at Leicester University (UK) and Tbilisi State University.



## ANNA BORSHCHEVSKAYA

THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE

Anna Borshchevskaya is a senior fellow in The Washington Institute's Diane and Guilford Glazer Foundation Program on Great Power Competition and the Middle East, focusing on Russia's policy toward the Middle East. In addition, she is a contributor to Oxford Analytica. She was previously with the Atlantic Council and the Peterson Institute for International Economics. A former analyst for a U.S. military contractor in Afghanistan, she has also served as communications director at the American Islamic Congress and was a fellow at the European Foundation for Democracy. Her analysis is published widely in publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The Hill*, *The New Criterion*, and *Middle East Quarterly*, as well as peer-reviewed journals. She is the author of the 2021 book, *Putin's War in Syria: Russian Foreign Policy and the Price of America's Absence* (I.B. Tauris, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing). Until recently, she conducted translation and analysis for the U.S. Army's Foreign Military Studies Office and its flagship publication, *Operational Environment Watch*, and wrote a foreign affairs column for *Forbes*. She is the author of the February 2016 Institute monograph, *Russia in the Middle East*. She holds a doctorate from George Mason University.





## PEDRO D. BOTTA

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY (FIU)

Pedro D. Botta is Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida. In this capacity he oversees a number of strategic programs for the Green School, including the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, Dorothea Green Lectures Series, Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland, European and Eurasian Studies, Program in the Study of Spirituality, Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, Jain Studies Program, Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies, Global Jewish Studies Program, Global Indigenous Forum and Arts and Humanities Initiative. He manages the Green School's external partnerships and works closely with university leadership to coordinate and advance the school's global strategy. At present, he is collaborating with several international partners to launch a Caucasus Security Studies Initiative within the European and Eurasian Studies Program. He is working with Palacky University in the Czech Republic to develop a "Global Democracy Clinic," which will be multi-country study abroad program for undergraduate students. He is also currently developing a signature event for the Green School that will explore the state of democracy worldwide. The event will be held annually in February at the university's main campus in Miami.



## CHRISTIAN CARYL

WASHINGTON POST

Christian Caryl is Op-ed Editor/International at The Washington Post and the author of “Strange Rebels: 1979 and the Birth of the 21st Century.” From 2004 to March 2009, he headed the Tokyo bureau of Newsweek. Before that, from 2000 to 2004, Caryl served as Newsweek’s Moscow bureau chief. After 9/11 he reported from Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Newsweek’s coverage of the war on terror. During his career he has reported from some 60 countries. Earlier, Caryl served as Moscow bureau chief for U.S News & World Report starting in July 1997. Before moving to Moscow, Caryl spent 13 years as a freelance journalist in Germany, where he contributed to publications including the Wall Street Journal, the New Republic, the Spectator and Der Spiegel. He was a winner of the 2011 Overseas Press Club award for best online commentary.



## EDWARD C. CHOW

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CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Edward C. Chow is an international energy expert with more than 40 years of industry experience working in Asia, Middle East, Africa, South America, Europe, Russia, Caspian and Black Sea regions. He negotiated successfully multibillion-dollar oil and gas agreements and specializes in investments in emerging economies. He developed government policy and business strategy while advising U.S. and other governments, international financial institutions, major oil companies, and leading multinational corporations. He worked in Chevron Corporation for more than 20 years in overseas and headquarter assignments, including as country manager in China and as head of international external affairs. He taught at Georgetown and George Washington universities and served as visiting professor at Ohio University and Fudan University in Shanghai. He is a non-resident senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and trustee of the Ohio University Foundation.



## VIOLA VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel is a Member of the European Parliament for Germany from the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance. Along other committees, MEP von Cramon-Taubadel has been serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. She is a lead member for Georgia at the European Parliament's Democracy Support Group (DEG).

In addition to her committee assignments, MEP von Cramon is Vice-Chair of the Parliament's delegations to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee as well as a member of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

Since July 2020 she has been a member of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation (INGE).

Prior to that, Viola von Cramon represented Lower Saxony in the German federal parliament from 2009 to 2013 where she was the spokesperson for EU foreign relations and for sports policy.



## CHARLES G. DAVIDSON

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### GLOBAL FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Charles Davidson has been involved in various efforts at reform of the “offshore” financial secrecy system, and currently co-chairs the DC-Forum. In 2014 he founded and was Executive Director of the Kleptocracy Initiative at Hudson Institute, testified regarding the national security threats associated with kleptocracy before the Senate Committee of the Judiciary, the Helsinki Commission, and the House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats. He co-founded (2006) and initially chaired the board of the think tank Global Financial Integrity, was a co-founder of the FACT Coalition, and was Executive Producer of Sundance documentary *We're Not Broke* (2012). Between 2005 and 2020, Davidson was Publisher of *The American Interest* magazine. Prior to 2005, Davidson was in the information technology industry, in executive management and later in venture capital. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College, and has an MBA from Duke University.



## KHATIA DEKANOIDZE

### MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA

Mrs. Khatia Dekanoidze is member of the Parliament of Georgia, Head of the largest opposition faction “United National Movement-United Strengths”. Mrs. Dekanoidze is a former Minister of education of Georgia, and the Chief of the National Police of Ukraine in 2015-2016. She served at different positions at the Georgian reformer government between 2004-2014.

Khatia Dekanoidze contributed to the reform of Georgian Police and created the modern national Police Academy serving as a Director between 2008-2011. Ms. Dekanoidze was one of the members of reformers’ team invited by Ukrainian Government in 2014. She was appointed as a Chief of the National police Ukraine and launched the massive reform and has created the modern police forces.

She served at different positions in the International Organizations assisting former Soviet countries to implement law enforcement and criminal justice reforms. Mrs. Dekanoidze was an adjunct professor at Marshall Security Centre, Garmisch, Germany. She contributed to the anti-corruption movements in Georgia and Ukraine.

Khatia Dekanoidze was born in Tbilisi, Georgia. She has one son.



## KELLY C. DEGNAN

### U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GEORGIA

Kelly Degnan is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. She arrived in Tbilisi on January 29, 2020, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Georgia. During her almost 30 -year career, Ambassador Degnan has focused on political and political-military affairs. She was the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d’Affaires ad interim in Rome and Pristina, and also served overseas at the U.S. Embassies in Botswana, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Ambassador Degnan was the Senior Civilian Representative to Brigade Combat Team Salerno in Khost, Afghanistan, where she earned the Secretary of State’s Expeditionary Service Award, one of many awards she has received throughout her career. Ambassador Degnan was also the Political Advisor to the four-star Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa, and the Political Counselor at the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In Washington, D.C, Ambassador Degnan served as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Department of State under Secretary John Kerry, as a Special Assistant to Secretary Albright, and as a Special Assistant to three Undersecretaries for Political Affairs, Marc Grossman, William Burns, and Nicholas Burns.

Ambassador Degnan is from California. She earned a degree in journalism from Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism and a law degree from the University of Southern California Law Center. Before joining the Foreign Service, she worked as both a journalist and a lawyer. As an attorney, she served as Legal Counsel in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau while navigating the Pacific on her sailboat. She speaks Italian and French, has studied Turkish and Urdu, and is learning basic Georgian.



## JAMIE FLY

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO  
LIBERTY

Jamie Fly resumed his leadership of RFE/RL as President and Chief Executive Officer on February 16, 2021, following his reappointment by the RFE/RL Board of Directors. Fly was first named RFE/RL President and Chief Executive Officer on July 10, 2019, effective August 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, Fly served as a senior fellow, co-director of the Alliance for Security Democracy, and director of the Future of Geopolitics and Asia programs at The German Marshall Fund of the United States. He served as counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs to Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) from 2013-17, serving as his foreign policy advisor during his presidential campaign. Prior to joining Senator Rubio's staff in February 2013, he served as the executive director of the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) from its founding in early 2009. Prior to joining FPI, Fly served in the Bush administration at the National Security Council (2008-09) and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (2005-08). His articles and reviews have been published in a wide variety of outlets in the United States and Europe. For his work in the Department of Defense, he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Fly received a B.A. in international studies and political science from American University and an M.A. in German and European studies from Georgetown University.





## ANNA FOTYGA

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### MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Polish Member of the European Parliament (2004-2005, since 2014 to nowadays), spokesperson on foreign affairs of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the EP, in the previous legislature chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the EP and Vice-President of the ECR Party.

Member and then head of the International Office of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Unions “Solidarność” in 80s and 90s. After 1992 fulfilled many public functions including the position of the Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk (2002-2004). Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland from 2006 to 2007, then Chief of the Chancellery of the President Lech Kaczynski (2007-2008). From 2006 to 2010 member of the National Security Council. Member of the Polish Parliament – Sejm (2011-2014). In 2020 she was appointed by the NATO Secretary General to NATO Reflection Group and in June 2022 she joined the Group on International Security Guarantees for Ukraine.



## EKA GIGAURI

### TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA

Eka Gigauri joined Transparency International Georgia in November 2010 as Executive Director of the organization. Under her leadership, TI Georgia's staff has increased from 20 to 40, five regional offices have been established and numerous projects have been successfully implemented. In 2015, Eka Gigauri was named one of the best Directors in the TI Global Movement. In November 2019, Eka Gigauri was elected as a board member of Transparency International global movement. From November 2021 she will be joining the Board for a three-year term.

Eka Gigauri is a specialist in International Relations, with a degree from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Having obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration at the Caucasus School of Business, Eka graduated from VU University Amsterdam with a LLM in International Law. Moreover, Eka completed the Senior Executive Programme at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. In 2017, she became a Fellow of the Stanford University Democracy and Development Programme.

Eka has extensive experience in working in governmental, non-governmental and private sectors, mainly in the fields of foreign relations (including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs etc.) and marketing and communications consultancy (including Marriott International, Institute for Polling and Marketing etc.). Her most prominent roles include the Deputy Head of the Border Police of Georgia, where she was conducting and supervising successful anti-corruption reforms of the Border Police. Eka has extensive experience in supervising projects funded by USAID, SIDA, NED and other international donor organisations.



## MYROSLAVA GONGADZE

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### VOICE OF AMERICA'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE

Myroslava Gongadze, Chief, Voice of America's Ukrainian service. She is an award-winning journalist, and a champion for democracy and independent media. In addition to her work at the Voice of America, Gongadze often speaks as a subject matter expert in various forums discussing politics, democratization and media in Ukraine. She periodically contributes to NPR and her writing has been published in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, NPR and Journal of Democracy.

Equipped with a law degree from Lviv State University, Myroslava has extensive experience in journalism and public relations. She has worked as a journalist, editor, producer and public relations officer in Ukraine and the US for several political and media organizations, including RFE/RL, Internews, IRI, NDI. Gongadze has been awarded a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship to study the role of the media in Ukraine's transition to democracy (2001) and George Washington University Petrac foundation scholarship (2003). In 2019 Myroslava completed her study at Harvard University as Nieman fellow.

For her outstanding contribution to the development of journalism, active civic stance and professional excellence, Gongadze received Princess Olha Order, a Ukrainian civil decoration bestowed on women of outstanding personal merit.



## SHOTA GVINERIA

ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH  
CENTER (EPRC)

Since September 2017 Amb. Shota Gvineria has been leading the EPRC's security policy direction. In July 2019, he also joined the Baltic Defence College as the lecturer in Defence and Cyber Studies. Amb. Gvineria has been working on various positions in Georgia's public sector. Among other positions, Shota Gvineria served as the Deputy Secretary at the National Security Council of Georgia. He covered NATO's integration and security policy related issues as the Ambassador at Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In his previous capacity until August 2016, he held the position of the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Minister of Defense of Georgia. Through 2010-14, he served as the Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 2010, Amb. Gvineria was promoted to the position of a Director of European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Prior to that, in he served as a Head of NATO Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In the period from April 2006 until October 2008, Shota Gvineria was posted as the Counselor of the Georgian Mission to NATO.

Amb. Gvineria holds MA in Strategic Security Studies from Washington's National Defense University. He also earned his MA in International Relations from the Diplomatic School of Madrid and Public Administration from the Georgian Technical University.



## REBECCA HARMS

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GERMAN POLITICIAN, MEMBER OF  
THE GREEN PARTY

Rebecca Harms is a German politician and a member of the Green party. Co-Founder of a well-known Citizens' Group against nuclear waste dump (Bürgerinitiative Lüchow-Dannenberg) in Lower Saxony, Northern Germany in 1977 and a leading voice in the German Anti-Nuclear movement 1988 First visit in Moscow, Kyiv and Chornobyl Exclusion Zone representing German anti-nuclear movement.

Member of the Parliament of Lower Saxony 1994 to 2004, President of the Green group. Member of the European Parliament 2004 to 2019., President of the Green group. Worked as a MEP in the Committees for Industry, Energy and Research, for the Environment and consumer Protection, for Foreign Affairs. Member of the EP delegations to Ukraine, Moldova and Russia. Co-Chair of Euronest 2016 -2019. First MEP banned from Russia in 2014. Since 2020 Vice Chair of the Board of European Center for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF). Since 2020 Member of the Sustainability Council of Volkswagen Group Senior advisor to Center for Liberal Modernity and Kyiv Dialogue; Advisory board of Ukrainian Zero Corruption Conference.;Advisory board of The New Eastern Europe Magazine; Green Academy Heinrich Böll Stiftung.

Initiator & coordinator of "The World Nuclear Waste Report, Vol1 2019 "

Author of "One day in Fukushima. One week in Japan. Travelling notes 2012 "

Recent articles about Ukraine for New Eastern Europe and Ukraine Verstehen/Liberale Moderne



## JOHN HERBST

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Ambassador John E. Herbst is senior director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center and served for thirty-one years as a foreign service officer in the US Department of State, retiring at the rank of career minister. He was US ambassador to Ukraine from 2003 to 2006, when he worked to enhance US-Ukrainian relations, help ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election, and prevent violence during the Orange Revolution. Prior to that, he was ambassador to Uzbekistan (2000-03), where he played a critical role in the establishment of an American base to help conduct Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also promoted improved US-Uzbek relations, in part by encouraging the government in Tashkent to improve its human rights record.

In his last four years at the State Department, he served as the coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, leading the US government's civilian capacity in societies in transition from conflict or civil strife, and to provide support to countries at risk of instability. He oversaw the establishment of the Civilian Response Corps of the United States, the US civilian rapid response force for reconstruction and stabilization operations overseas.

Ambassador Herbst previously served as US consul general in Jerusalem; principal deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large for the Newly Independent States; the director of the office of independent states and commonwealth affairs; director of regional affairs in the Near East Bureau; and at the embassies in Tel Aviv, Moscow, and Saudi Arabia.

He most recently served as director of the center for complex operations at National Defense University. He has received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award, and the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award. Ambassador Herbst has written book chapters, articles, and op-eds on stability operations in Central Asia, Ukraine, and Russia. His writings have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, the *National Interest*, and *Foreign Policy*. He has been a frequent guest discussing the Ukraine crisis on television and radio.

Ambassador Herbst earned a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Phi Beta Kappa, and a master of law and diplomacy, with distinction, from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He also attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Bologna Center.



## HANNA HOPKO

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### DEMOCRACY IN ACTION, UKRAINE

Hanna Hopko is an expert in advocacy, on Russian expansionism and hybrid warfare. From 2014-2019, she chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament. Hopko was one of the civic leaders of the EuroMaidan during Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity. Ms. Hopko was elected to Parliament from the pro-European Self-Reliance Party in 2014 and later served as an independent MP. In 2014, Foreign Policy magazine named Ms. Hopko a "Leading Global Thinker". That same year, she received the "Certificate of Merit" from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service Leadership Seminar and was honored with the National Democratic Institute Democracy Award for her efforts to further the cause of democracy in Ukraine. She has spoken on security issues at forums hosted by Canada, such as the 95th Rose-Roth Seminar of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association held in Kyiv and was the keynote speaker alongside Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland at the 2019 Ukraine Reform Conference in Toronto sponsored by Global Affairs Canada. Hanna belongs to Young Global Leaders Networks of WEF (World Economic Forum) and Munich Security Conference.



## LTG (RET) BEN HODGES

### HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST

Lieutenant General (Retired) Ben Hodges is Senior Advisor to Human Rights First, a non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization based in New York, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. Prior to joining Human Rights First, he held the Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). General Hodges also serves as NATO Senior Mentor for Logistics and consults for several companies on Europe, NATO, and the European Union. He is co-author of the book *Future War and the Defence of Europe*, published by Oxford University Press.

A native of Quincy, Florida, General Hodges graduated from the United States Military Academy in May 1980 and was commissioned as an Officer in the US Army, in the Infantry. Over a career of 38 years, his operational assignments included Service in Iraq 2003-2004 and 2005-2006 and Director of Operations, Regional Command South in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2009-2010.

General Hodges' last two assignments were Commander, NATO Allied Land Command, 2012-2014 in Izmir TURKEY and Commanding General, United States Army Europe 2014-2017 in Wiesbaden GERMANY. He retired from the U.S. Army in January 2018 and lives today with his wife in Frankfurt GERMANY.





BEN JUDAH

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Ben Judah is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and a foreign-policy writer based in New York, with his current research focus on the foreign policy of the Biden administration, transnational kleptocracy, and Britain's attempts to reset its diplomatic posture after Brexit. Ben Judah is a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and a foreign-policy writer based in New York, with his current research focus on the foreign policy of the Biden administration, Europe's approach to addressing Russia's aggression in Ukraine, transnational kleptocracy, and Britain's attempts to reset its diplomatic posture after Brexit.

In Washington, DC, he has worked closely with the offices of Democratic senators, in Washington, DC, he has worked closely with the offices of Democratic senators, including Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), in seeking to develop a global anti-money-laundering agenda as a central plank of US foreign policy.

He was previously a fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC, leading research on the institute's Kleptocracy Initiative. He was also previously a fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations in London and the European Stability Initiative in Istanbul.

He has interviewed and profiled global figures including French President Emmanuel Macron, former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, and former First Lady Melania Trump. As a journalist, he has reported on the Russo-Georgia War; unrest in Central Asia, the Arab Spring, and elections in the United Kingdom, France, and United States.

He is the author of two acclaimed books: *Fragile Empire, a study of Vladimir Putin's Russia*, and *This is London*, a book on the British capital. In 2023, he will release his third book with Picador, an imprint of Pan Macmillan.

He has been commended as British Feature Writer of the Year at The Press Awards (formerly known as the British Press Awards), has been selected as a Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe, was a finalist for the 2019 Ryszard Kapuściński Award for Literary Reportage, and most recently was awarded a Travelling Scholarship by the Society of Authors.



## DARIA KALENIUK

### ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION CENTER

Daria is co-founder and executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center, a powerful national organization that has shaped Ukraine's anti-corruption legislation and efforts. Daria's organization ensured that Ukraine's newly elected parliament designed strong anti-corruption legislation, including the laws on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the special anti-corruption prosecutor's office, open property registers and electronic asset declarations. Daria has also founded critical resources to track money laundering and corruption internationally. Kaleniuk holds a master's degree in financial services law from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She was a Fullbright program student in 2010-2011.



IAN KELLY

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Ian Kelly is Ambassador (ret.) in Residence at the Program in International Studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He is a retired Senior Foreign Service Officer who last served as the United States Ambassador to Georgia, from 2015 to 2018. He previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from 2010 to 2013. Prior to his ambassadorships, Kelly held a variety of high-level roles at the U.S. State Department, including serving as the Department spokesman under Secretary Hillary Clinton and as Director of the Office of Russian Affairs. Before joining the State Department, he earned a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Columbia University.



## KETI KHUTSISHVILI

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### OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION (OSGF)

Keti Khutsishvili became the Executive Director of OS GF in late 2008. Holding an MA in Asian Studies, in the early 90's she worked at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Georgia. From the mid- '90s, she started to work for international aid organizations. The longest assignment (1994-2001) was with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, first as a local consultant and later as international program officer. Prior to joining the Soros network, she worked in 2002-2007 as Country Director of the Eurasia Foundation Georgia office.



## BESIKI KUTATELADZE

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Besiki Luka Kutateladze is a criminology professor at Florida International University (FIU), and a founder of Prosecutorial Performance Indicators, a U.S.-based national research and technical assistance project focusing on prosecutorial reform.

Prof. Kutateladze specializes in performance indicators, prosecutorial discretion, and hate crimes. His research has been published in top-tier journals such as *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Law & Human Behavior*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, and *Cardozo Law Review*. He also authored several UN and UNDP guides on performance measurement and evaluation. In 2021, he received a prestigious FIU Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity. He was also named a 2019 FIU Top Scholar for Research by the Provost.

Prior to his appointment at FIU, Dr. Kutateladze was the founding research director at the Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG) of the City University of New York. Before that, Dr. Kutateladze served as the research director for the Prosecution and Racial Justice Program of the Vera Institute of Justice. From 2008 to 2013, he played a crucial role in the development of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators and their implementation in Haiti and Liberia. Before joining the Vera Institute, Dr. Kutateladze taught courses on comparative criminal justice and statistics at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and lectured and conducted research on criminal procedure at Tbilisi State University. In 2002, he was the U.S. State Department Fellow from the Republic of Georgia.



## BATU KUTELIA

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ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

Ambassador Kutelia is the founder of the political party “Droa!” in Georgia. He is a board member of the Atlantic Council of Georgia and the Next Generation Leader fellow at the McCain Institute for International Leadership. He served as the Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia, since January 2011 till November 2013. From 2008 until 2011 he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

In his previous capacities he has been First Deputy Minister of Defense (2007-2008), Deputy Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs (2006-2007) and Deputy Minister of State Security (2004).

From 2005-2006 he functioned as the Head of the Intelligence Service of Georgia. Before this he was the Head of the Foreign Intelligence Department of the Ministry of State Security of Georgia and Director of the Political Security Department of the National Security Council in 2004, also numerous pol.-mil. positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before turning into his diplomatic and political career Mr. Kutelia studied physics and holds a PhD in physics. However, he also holds a master in Public Affairs Administration. Mr. Kutelia is fluent in English, Russian and Georgian languages.



## ISABELLE LASSERRE

LE FIGARO

Isabelle Lasserre is the diplomatic correspondent of Le Figaro. Previously, she has been Defense correspondent, correspondent in Russia and war reporter (Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan...) for the same newspaper. She also works for Politique Internationale, the main European review dedicated to foreign affairs in French language. Her last book, "Macron, the disruptor, the foreign policy of an anti-system president" (L'Observatoire), has just been published.



## LINAS LINKEVIČIUS

FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS, LITHUANIA

From 2012 to 2020, Linas Linkevičius served as Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Before, Ambassador Linkevičius served as the Lithuanian Permanent Representative to NATO from 2005 until 2011. Prior to this he was elected as a Member of Seimas (Parliament) from 1992 until 1996. In 1993, he was promoted to Minister of National Defence of Lithuania, a post which he held from 1993-1996. He was then appointed as the Ambassador and Head of Mission of Lithuania to NATO and the WEU. From 2000-2004, Ambassador Linkevičius was appointed again as Minister of National Defence of Lithuania. From 2004-2005, he was the Ambassador for Special Missions at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2012, he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Belarus.

He is a member of the Advisory Board for the European Leadership Network (ELN), member of CEPA International Leadership Council.





## BOBO LO

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CENTER FOR EUROPEAN POLICY  
ANALYSIS (CEPA)

Bobo Lo is an independent international relations analyst and a Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). He is also a Nonresident Fellow at the Lowy Institute, Sydney, and an Associate Research Fellow at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). Previously, he was Head of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House, and Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Moscow.

Dr Lo has written a number of books, including *A Wary Embrace: What the China-Russia Relationship Means for the World* (Lowy Institute and Penguin Australia, 2017); *Russia and the New World Disorder* (Brookings and Chatham House, 2015); and *Axis of Convenience: Moscow, Beijing and the New Geopolitics* (Brookings and Chatham House, 2008).

Recent shorter writings include: 'Turning point? Putin, Xi, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine', Lowy Analysis, 25 May 2022; 'The world that Vladimir Putin wants to see', *Australian Financial Review*, 25 February 2022; 'Masters of our fate: global order in the post-pandemic era', *Horizons*, Winter 2021; and 'Global order in the shadow of the coronavirus: China, Russia and the West', Lowy Analysis, July 2020.

Bobo Lo has an MA from Oxford and a PhD from Melbourne University.



## FREDRIK LÖJDQUIST

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### STOCKHOLM CENTRE FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES

Ambassador Fredrik Löjdquist is the Director of Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies, SCEEUS, and previously served as a Swedish diplomat 1994-2021, i.a. as ambassador of Sweden to the OSCE 2012-17 and as Sweden's first special envoy and ambassador for countering hybrid threats 2018-21. Other postings include Vilnius, Moscow, Vienna. He served as ambassador and special envoy to Georgia for the Swedish EU presidency 2009.

This spring he was seconded as an independent security policy expert to the secretariat the working group appointed by the Swedish government to deliberate on the changed security environment following Russia's aggression against Ukraine that produced the government report "Deterioration of the security environment – implications for Sweden", which paved the way for Sweden's application for membership to NATO.



KARA McDONALD

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Kara C. McDonald serves as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor where she oversees the Bureau's work on Europe, South and Central Asia, and the Multilateral and Global Affairs teams in DRL/MLGA. In January 2021, she was designated to serve concurrently as the Senior Official to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism for the Office of the Special Envoy (SEAS).

She most recently served as U.S. Consul General Strasbourg and Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe. From 2015-2017, she was Director of Policy, Planning, and Coordination in the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bureau. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Chisinau, Moldova. Her other assignments include Deputy Special Coordinator for Haiti; Director for United Nations and International Operations at the National Security Council; Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and the Czech Republic desk. From 2009-2010, she was an International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Her overseas assignments also include U.S. Embassies Port-au-Prince and Bucharest. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of State, she was a Presidential Management Fellow in democracy and governance issues at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan, and a Master of Arts from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She speaks or has studied French, Romanian, and Russian.



## LAURE MANDEVILLE

LE FIGARO

Laure Mandeville is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Europe Center. She was the chief US correspondent for Le Figaro in Washington from January 2009 to August 2016, covering US politics, US foreign policy, and American society. She joined the foreign desk of Le Figaro in 1989 to cover the end of communism and spent twenty years covering the post-Soviet world (Eastern Europe, Russia, Baltic countries, Caucasus, Ukraine, and Central Asia). She was correspondent to Moscow from 1997 to 2000. She also covered Europe, Islam in Europe, and transatlantic relations.

She is the author of *The Russia Army: A Power in Tatters* (1994, Ed n°01) and *The Russian Reconquest* (Grasset, 2008), which received the Louis Pauwels Award and the Ailleurs Award in 2009. Mandeville is adviser to the Editorial Board of *Politique Internationale* where she regularly contributes. She has just written a book about Donald Trump, *Qui est vraiment Donald Trump* (2016, Les Equateurs/Le Figaro). She is now back in Paris and will be investigating European politics and societies at Le Figaro, starting in November.



## STEFAN MEISTER

### GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Dr. Stefan Meister has been the head of DGAP's program on international order and democracy since August 2021. From 2019 until then, he worked as director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's South Caucasus Office.

From 2017 to 2019, Meister was head of the Robert Bosch Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at DGAP, where he had previously headed its program for Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. Before that, he was a senior policy fellow in the Wider Europe Team at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) in Berlin and London. In the 2015/16 term, Meister was a visiting fellow at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC, where he wrote on Russian disinformation and propaganda. He has served as an election observer for the OSCE in post-Soviet countries several times and worked on conflict transformation and institution building in post-Soviet countries.

Meister is co-author of *Geopolitics and Security: A New Strategy for the South Caucasus* (KAS/DGAP/GIP, 2018), *The Russia File* (Brookings, 2018), *Eastern Voices* (Center for Transatlantic Relations/DGAP, 2017), and *The Eastern Question* (Brookings, 2016).

He studied international relations and East European history in Jena, Leipzig, and Nizhni Novgorod and holds a PhD from Friedrich Schiller University in Jena with a thesis on the transformation of the Russian higher education and research system.



## IA MEURMISHVILI

VOICE OF AMERICA

Ia Meurmishvili is a journalist, managing editor, and the anchor for “View from Washington,” a weekly, Georgian-language TV program produced by Voice of America. In this capacity, she has presented American foreign policy, values, and culture to audiences in her native Georgia since 2009. She also covers major American foreign and national security issues as they relate to U.S.-Russian and U.S.-Georgian relations, as well as war in Ukraine.

In addition to her work for the Georgian Service, Ia has also written investigative, fact-checking stories for VOA’s English-language outlets aimed at debunking fake news and propaganda. Prior to joining the Voice of America, Ia held a variety of positions in the private and non-profit sectors, including positions at the Eurasia Foundation, Finmeccanica, and worked on matters for the U.S. Congressional Georgia Caucus through the office of U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz.

She is fluent in Georgian, Russian, and English, and holds an M.A. in International Affairs from American University.



## HUGUES MINGARELLI

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FORMER AMBASSADOR OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION TO UKRAINE

Hugues Mingarelli was the EU Ambassador to Ukraine from 2016 to 2019. Previously, he was in charge of the Middle-East and North Africa at the European External Action Service between 2011 and 2016. Between 2003 and 2010, he was in charge of the countries of Eastern Europe, Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia at the European Commission. In this capacity, he negotiated the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement. After the end of the wars in the Balkans, he was asked to set up and run the European Agency for the Reconstruction of the Balkans (1999-2002).



## YASCHA MOUNK

JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Yascha Mounk is a writer and academic known for his work on the crisis of democracy and the defense of philosophically liberal values.

Born in Germany to Polish parents, Yascha received his BA in History from Trinity College Cambridge and his PhD in Government from Harvard University. He is an Associate Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University, where he holds appointments in both the School of Advanced International Studies and the SNF Agora Institute. Yascha is also a Contributing Editor at *The Atlantic*, a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Founder of Persuasion.

Yascha has written four books: *Stranger in My Own Country - A Jewish Family in Modern Germany*, a memoir about Germany's fraught attempts to deal with its past; *The Age of Responsibility - Luck, Choice and the Welfare State*, which argues that a growing obsession with the concept of individual responsibility has transformed western welfare states; *The People versus Democracy - Why Our Freedom Is in Danger and How to Save It*, which explains the causes of the populist rise and investigates how to renew liberal democracy; and *The Great Experiment - Why Diverse Democracies Fall Apart and How They Can Endure*, which argues that anybody who seeks to help ethnically and religiously diverse democracies thrive has reason to embrace a more ambitious vision for their future than is now fashionable. Next to his work for *The Atlantic*, Yascha also occasionally writes for newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He is also a regular contributor to major international publications including *Die Zeit*, *La Repubblica*, *El País*, *l'Express* and *Folha de São Paulo*, among others.



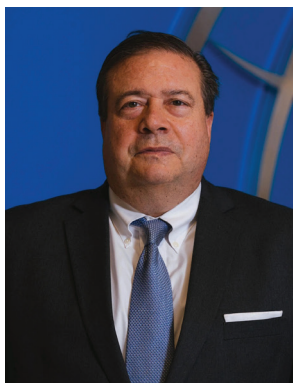


## ZHANNA NEMTSOVA

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CO-FOUNDER OF THE BORIS  
NEMTSOV FOUNDATION FOR  
FREEDOM

Zhanna Nemtsova is the co-Founder of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom and the co-Director of the Boris Nemtsov Academic Centre for the Study of Russia at the Charles University Department of Philosophy. She also works as a freelance journalist producing English-language media projects. Her narrative podcast *Another Russia* she created with Ben Rhodes for Crooked media has appeared in the top-50 most popular American podcasts. From 2015 to 2020, Zhanna Nemtsova reported on world political affairs and hosted her own Russian-language television program «Nemtsova. Interview» at Deutsche Welle, the German public broadcaster. Previously, she worked for RBC, a privately-owned Russian TV station, where she covered financial markets and interviewed top politicians and leading economists. Zhanna authored a book titled “My Father’s Daughter”.



## STEPHEN B. NIX

### INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Nix joined IRI after serving for two years as senior democracy specialist at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Nix is a specialist in political party development, and judicial and legal reform in the former Soviet Union.

Nix resided in Kyiv, Ukraine, for more than three years. During that time, he served as outside legal counsel for the Committee on Legal Reform in the Ukrainian Parliament. He also assisted in the drafting of crucial reform legislation in Ukraine, including the constitution of Ukraine, the presidential and parliamentary election laws, and the law on the constitutional court of Ukraine. Nix also served as a member of the Parliamentary Special Committee on the Law on the Election of Deputies in Ukraine. He has lectured in a number of law schools throughout Ukraine on such topics as election law and judicial reform.

Nix served as legal counsel to the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in Ukraine and Russia, and has written extensively on legal and political reforms in the region. Among his publications is *The Compendium of Election Laws of Central and Eastern Europe* (1994).

Nix received his juris doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1989. He worked in the litigation section of the law firm of Baker & Hostetler in Washington, DC from 1989 to 1994, where he specialized in election law and international law. Prior to entering the practice of law, Nix served as Midwest field director for the National Republican Congressional Committee and was the campaign manager for the Republican candidate in Indiana's Second Congressional District. Nix served on the litigation team for the 2008 John McCain for President Campaign and was posted to Columbus, Ohio.



## JAMES NIXEY

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### CHATHAM HOUSE

James Nixey has been Director of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House since January 2013. He leads a team of 23 experts, offering insight into the international relations of Russia and the other independent states that once comprised the Soviet Union.

He is also an Associate Fellow with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, an honorary fellow at the University of Exeter, and serves on the board of the journal *UA: Ukraine Analytica*.

Selected longer-form publications include the introduction, conclusion and a chapter in *Myths and Misperceptions on the Policy Debate on Russia*, and the introductions to *Kazakhstan: Tested by Transition* and *The Struggle for Ukraine*.

He has also written for (and been interviewed by) *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *Newsweek*, BBC.co.uk and CNN.com

James holds degrees in modern languages and international relations and has previous experience in journalism (as a reporter in Moscow in the late 1990s) and in the banking sector.



## ANNA NOVOSAD

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### UKRAINIAN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVIST

Anna Novosad used to serve many years in various positions at the Ministry of education and science of Ukraine, including being a Minister in 2019-2020. Anna contributed and led the comprehensive school reform in Ukraine, as well as was a leader of the higher education funding reform. In 2021/2022 Anna completed the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program at Vanderbilt University in the USA. Currently Anna leads various projects that aim at education access renewal in Ukraine amidst the war of Russia against the people of Ukraine.



## ŽYGMANTAS PAVILIONIS

DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN  
AFFAIRS OF THE LITHUANIAN  
PARLIAMENT

Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis is a career Lithuanian diplomat since 1993. He attended Vilnius University where he earned a master's degree in philosophy and a PhD in political science. Pavilionis was assistant director of policy from 1994-1995, leading the political section of the European Integration Department as Associate European Correspondent from 1995-1999. He worked in Brussels, Belgium, at the Lithuanian Permanent Mission to the EC from 1999-2002 as Co-Secretary of Association Council, Accession Conference to the EU, and Deputy Chief Negotiator. Pavilionis was then promoted to lead the European Union Department from 2002-2004 and became Political Director and Deputy Foreign Minister from 2005-2009. Most recently he served as Chief Coordinator for Lithuania's presidency of the Community of Democracies (2009-2010), Lithuanian Ambassador to the US and Mexico (2010-2015), and Ambassador-at-Large for Europe's East (2015-2016). In 2016 he was elected to the Lithuanian Parliament by the votes of the global Lithuanian diaspora and in 2020 reelected in Naujamiesčio – Naujininkų electoral constituency. Žygimantas Pavilionis served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament (2020-2022) and currently is Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs and the International Secretary of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrat party.



## SALOME SAMADASHVILI

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MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF  
GEORGIA

Ambassador Salome Samadashvili is a member of the Parliament of Georgia, elected in October 2020, and Political Secretary of ‘Lelo for Georgia.’ This is her second consecutive term in the Parliament of Georgia, where she served from 2016-2020 as the Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations. From 2005-2013 Ambassador Samadashvili was the Chief of Georgia’s Mission to the European Union and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. As the head of Georgia’s mission to the EU, she oversaw successful negotiations of the Association and Free Trade Agreements between Georgia and the EU.

In 2014 she was a visiting fellow at the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies in Brussels, a global think-tank associated with the European People’s Party. In 2015 she served as an interim resident governance director of the National Democratic Institute for Libya.

Ambassador Samadashvili has been awarded Presidential Decoration of Splendor for her outstanding service to Georgia. She holds a BA degree in Political Sciences from Allegheny College, Pennsylvania, USA, as well as an LL.M with Merit in Comparative Constitutional Law from the Central European University in Budapest and a Masters in Public Policy from the School of Public Affairs, American University, Washington DC. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the field of European Studies at the University of Georgia and is the author of numerous publications on the subject, including the policy papers on the European global strategy, ‘Good or Bad Neighbors-Europe’s Main Security Challenge,’ ‘Muzzling the Bear-Strategic Defense for Russia’s Undeclared Information War on Europe’ and ‘Lifeline for Freedom: Eastern Partnership, 2.0.’



## RANDY SCHEUNEMANN

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HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY FORUM  
INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN  
INSTITUTE (IRI)

Randy Scheunemann is Strategic Counselor at the Halifax International Security Forum, an organization dedicated to increasing strategic cooperation among democracies. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Republican Institute, promoting democracy worldwide. He has observed elections in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, leading observation missions to Timor Leste, Nigeria, and Kenya.

Over his three-decade career in foreign policy, Scheunemann has worked in Capitol Hill, the Pentagon and presidential campaigns. He has advised corporations, NGOs and governments around the world. Scheunemann lives in Montana with his wife and two Labrador Retrievers.



## NICOLAS TENZER

CENTER FOR STUDIES AND  
RESEARCH ON POLITICAL  
DECISION (CERAP)

Graduated from École normale supérieure, Sciences-Po Paris and École nationale d'administration (ENA), he has a Master degree in History. Former adviser to the French Minister of Economy and Finance, he was investigator at the Accounting Court and Head of Department in Strategic Planning Commission (Prime Minister's Office). He served as head of a special mission on international issues for the French government. He is the co-founder, former chairman and CEO, and now honorary chairman of Initiative for the Development of French Expertise Abroad in Europe and Worldwide (IDEFIE). He has been member of the board, CFO, and then executive president of Aspen Institute France (2010-2015). He wrote three official reports for the French government: *The New Challenges for the Public Service: How to Address Them?*; *A New Organization for European and International Policies in France*; and *International Expertise: The New Heart of Diplomacy and Development Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Tools for a French Strategy of Influence*.

Chairman of the Center for Studies and Research on Political Decision (CERAP) and the editor of the review *Le Banquet*, he is guest professor at Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA, Sciences-Po), ENA Paris, and France's Institute for Advanced Studies on National Defence. He has been visiting professor at foreign universities (U.S., Canada, Serbia, South Korea, Poland, etc.) and guest speaker at many international conferences on security and international issues. He is the author of 22 books, including *Political Philosophy*; *The World in 2030. The Rule and the Disorder*; and *France Needs Others*, and lastly *Resisting Despair in Confrontational Times* (with R. Jahanbegloo, Har-Anand Publications, 2019). Most of his recent pieces deal with European and security issues, Russia, Middle-East and US foreign policy. He regularly appears in leading newspapers worldwide and TV and radio talk-shows.





## GIORGI VASHADZE

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MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF  
GEORGIA

Giorgi Vashadze is a Member of the Parliament of Georgia. He is the chairperson of the political party Strategy Builder. He was an MP in 2012-to 2016. He worked on several levels in the executive branch culminating in successfully reforming the Civil Registry (Justice House) and holding the post of Deputy Justice minister between 2010-2012. In 2014 he founded the Innovation and Development Foundation, a think tank with headquarters in Tbilisi, Kyiv and Chicago, providing technical and advisory expertise in the modernization, planning and implementation process of large-scale reforms in the public sector. It contributed to reforms of procurement, public service hall, National Anti-Corruption Bureau and High Anti-Corruption Court, and the Economic Modernization Act of Ukraine. Mr. Vashadze is a Harvard Business School Alumni.

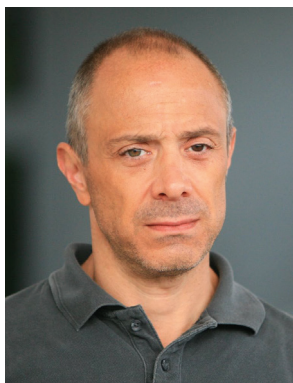


## KURT VOLKER

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### CENTER FOR EUROPEAN POLICY ANALYSIS (CEPA)

Ambassador Kurt Volker is a leading expert in U.S. foreign and national security policy with over 35 years of experience in a variety of government, academic, and private sector capacities. He served as U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations from 2017 to 2019, and as U.S. Ambassador to NATO from 2008-2009. Ambassador Volker is the Founder and President of Alliance Strategic Advisors, LLC, which provides strategic advice and services to a diverse range of business clients with interests in Central and Eastern Europe. He is concurrently a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Founding Partner of the American University of Kyiv, and a Senior International Advisor to BGR Group. From 2012-2019, Amb. Volker was the founding Executive Director of The McCain Institute for International Leadership, a part of Arizona State University based in Washington, DC. He previously served as an Independent Director of CG Funds Trust and the Wall Street Fund.



## BRIAN WHITMORE

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Brian Whitmore is an Assistant Professor of Practice at University of Texas-Arlington McDowell Center for Global Studies and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center in Washington D.C. He is also the founder and author of The Power Vertical Blog and host of The Power Vertical Podcast, both of which focus on Russian affairs.

Whitmore also worked as Senior Russia Analyst for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), where he was employed for 11 years from 2007-17. Prior to joining RFE/RL, Whitmore worked as a foreign correspondent for The Boston Globe in Moscow and in Prague.

He has worked as a graduate lecturer in the Department of Government and International Studies at the University of South Carolina, and as a visiting lecturer in the History Faculty at Mechnikov National University in Odessa, Ukraine and the International Relations Faculty at St. Petersburg State University in Russia.

Whitmore has testified for the U.S. Helsinki Commission on Russian and Belarusian affairs. He has also briefed at the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, NATO, the European Parliament, and the Canadian Privy Council.

His work has appeared in The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The New Republic, Foreign Policy, World Politics Review, Newsweek, and elsewhere. He has appeared as a guest commentator on CNN, the BBC World Service, NPR, Bloomberg, and various other media.

A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Whitmore earned an MA in Political Science from Villanova University in 1987 and BA in Politics from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia in 1986.



## WILLIAM B. TAYLOR

U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Ambassador William B. Taylor is vice president, Russia and Europe at the U.S. Institute of Peace. In 2019, he served as chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv. During the Arab Spring, he oversaw U.S. assistance and support to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Syria. He served as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 2006 to 2009.

Ambassador Taylor also served as the U.S. government's representative to the Mideast Quartet, which facilitated the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. He served in Baghdad as the first director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office from 2004 to 2005, and in Kabul as coordinator of international and U.S. assistance to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2003. Ambassador Taylor was also coordinator of U.S. assistance to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He earlier served on the staff of Senator Bill Bradley.

Ambassador Taylor is a graduate of West Point and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and served as an infantry platoon leader and combat company commander in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and Germany.



## LAURA THORNTON

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

Laura Thornton is director and senior fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy at the German Marshall Fund. Prior to joining ASD, Thornton was director of global programs at International IDEA, a Stockholm-based intergovernmental think and do tank with the mission to advance democracy. She managed multiple teams across Europe focused on constitution-building, parliamentary processes, elections, gender and inclusion, political parties, and democracy assessment and analysis. In this role she managed the Institute's Global State of Democracy products, including a COVID-19 monitor tracking the impact of pandemic responses on democracy and human rights.

Thornton also worked at the National Democratic Institute for more than 20 years, serving in leadership positions across Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka) and in the country Georgia. She has written extensively about political party development, political finance and corruption, elections, and disinformation and has led multiple election observation missions across the globe. Thornton did her graduate work at Princeton University and Oxford University, and she earned her BA from Northwestern University.



## DANIEL TWINING

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### INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Dr. Daniel Twining joined the International Republican Institute as president in 2017, where he leads the Institute's mission to advance democracy and freedom around the world. He heads IRI's team of over 800 global experts to link citizens and governments, motivate people to engage in the political process, and guide politicians and government officials to be responsive to citizens. IRI has teams working on the ground in 80 countries and is a core institute of the National Endowment for Democracy.

Previously, Dr. Twining served as counselor to the president and director of the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund, as a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, as the foreign policy advisor to U.S. Senator John McCain, and as a staff member of the U.S. Trade Representative. He has been an associate of the National Intelligence Council, taught at Georgetown University, and served as a military instructor associated with the Naval Postgraduate School. He serves on the Bush Institute's Human Freedom Advisory Council and the Wilson Center's Asia Advisory Board. He has been a columnist for Foreign Policy and Nikkei and served as an advisor to six presidential campaigns. From 2004-7, he was the Fulbright/Oxford Scholar at Oxford University.



## SALOME ZOURABICHVILI

### PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA

Born on 18 March 1952 in Paris, France.

Speaks fluently Georgian, French, and English and converses in basic Italian.

#### **Education**

Institute of Political Studies (1969-1972 – Paris, France).

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (1972-1973 – New York, U.S.A.)

#### **Diplomatic and Political Career**

In 1974-2004, she worked in the diplomatic service for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France in several embassies (Italy, United States, and Chad) and with French representations to international organizations (UN, NATO, Western European Union, OSCE).

In 2003, she was appointed as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of France to Georgia.

In 2004-2005, she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. On 11 March 2006, after leaving the post, she founded a political party “The Way of Georgia”.

In 2006-2015, she was an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, France.

From 2010 to December 2015, she led the United Nations Security Council monitoring group on sanctions against Iran.

In 2016, she won in Parliamentary elections of Georgia, as an independent Deputy.

In 2018, she was elected as the 5th President of Georgia.





# CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



## VLAD GALUSHKO

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

Vlad Galushko is a unit manager at the Open Society Foundations' Europe and Central Asia Program where he works closely on digital authoritarianism and media and provides a response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine through the OSF Ukraine Democracy Fund. Vlad joined OSF over a decade ago supporting independent policy research in Ukraine, Moldova, the South Caucasus, and the Western Balkans. His recent portfolio addressed disinformation and digital transformation in Europe. Prior to OSF, Vlad was a policy analyst with the International Crisis Group in Central Asia. His areas of interest include civil society development, state and institution-building processes, security challenges in transitioning democracies, and human-centered digitalization.



## MARET KOPLUS

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY (ICDS)

Maret Koplus works as an Event Coordinator at the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) with the main focus on conferences as Lennart Meri Conference (LMC) and Annual Baltic Conference on Defence (ABCD). Before joining ICDS in spring 2019, she worked at the Government Office of Estonia in the Communication Unit from 2012. She has long experience in event planning, coordination and production. She graduated from Tallinn University as historian (BA).



## OKSANA NECHYPORENKO

GOGLOBAL/GO CAMP

Oksana Nechyporenko is director of GoGlobal/GoCamp NGO - biggest educational volunteer initiative in Ukraine with 160 000 children participating in the project in 324 cities and villages of Ukraine and the largest volunteer project in Eastern Europe with 1000 international volunteers from 73 countries of the world.

In 2019-2020 Oksana became Head of Advisory group to the Prime Minister of Ukraine and Head of the Supervisory Board of the UkraineInvest. In 2020 - 2022 Oksana was advising a number of Ministers and Parliamentarians. In 2020 Oksana became the co-founder of the Ukrainian Endowment for Democracy initiative. Oksana is also the co-founder of the “Masha Fund” - fund that leads work with women, who became victims of war.

Before Euromaidan Ksana was launching the activity of Edinburgh Business School Eastern Europe in Ukraine in 2009, and after the Revolution Ksana stood in the origins of the biggest civic platform Reanimation Package of Reforms that united 70 CSOs and think-tanks and promoted reforms in Ukraine through the change of law and was head of Secretariat there and then member of the Supervisory Board.

Master of Political Sciences (Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University), in the process of getting British MBA in Edinburgh Business School.

In March 2018/2019 was rated among 100 most successful women in Ukraine according to Novoe Vremya magazine (NV).

On the day of the beginning of war Oksana was in Warsaw as a speaker for Atlantic Council event. So in the first days of war she organised and now is leading the Crisis Coordination Center in Warsaw, aimed to support Ukraine and Ukrainians that fled to Poland.



## EEVA EEK-PAJUSTE

### LENNART MERI CONFERENCE

Eeva Eek-Pajuste is the Director of Lennart Meri Conference at International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) since autumn 2018. Previously she has worked on several diplomatic posts in

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, served in Estonian embassies in Riga, Paris, Washington DC and Estonian Representation to the EU in Brussels. She graduated (MA) from Tartu University as historian with specialty of ethnology.



## SANDIS SRADERS

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BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE, TARTU

Sandis Sraders is a researcher and lecturer at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia on Russian military and strategic studies. He has served as Secretary General of the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO) from 2007 until 2014 and assumed the role of a Board Member of LATO since 2014. Dr. Sraders has been the project coordinator for the German Marshall Fund of the United States in the Baltic States (2013-2015). His responsibility was accumulating the intellectual capital for the Latvian Presidency at the EU Council in 2015. Dr. Sraders was responsible for expert selection and meetings as well as the final publication addressing the EU's Eastern Partnership. One of his recent positions was Director of Strategic Projects, Sales, and Advertising at Latvijas Radio (2018–2019). Dr. Sraders academic interests include Russia foreign and security studies, US foreign policy, as well as role of small states in international affairs and the global political economy.



## LEAH SCHEUNEMANN

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### ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Leah Scheunemann is the deputy director of the Transatlantic Security Initiative in the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council. In her role, she oversees the Initiative's programming and research covering US transatlantic policy, NATO defense policy, and European security.

Prior to joining the Atlantic Council, Scheunemann served in the Pentagon and was most recently a special assistant to the undersecretary of defense for policy overseeing matters related to international security. In this capacity she managed and advised the undersecretary on defense policy related to NATO, Europe, Russia, the Middle East, South America, and Africa, and led coordination on international issues with the secretary of defense's office. Previously in the undersecretary's office, Scheunemann led on functional policy issues, including implementation of the National Defense Strategy, Missile Defense Strategy, and Nuclear Posture Review, while also overseeing force posture, homeland defense, cyber, space, technology, and security cooperation issues. Scheunemann began her time in the Pentagon as the secretary of defense's country director for the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland in the European and NATO Affairs office. Notably, she was given the Secretary of Defense's Award for Outstanding Achievement for her accomplishments, including founding a cross-Pentagon program to enhance cooperation with the UK on next-generation capabilities. Scheunemann was also twice awarded the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Exceptional Public Service for her work in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Formerly, Scheunemann was a professional staff member at the Senate Armed Services Committee and had responsibility for readiness, logistics, maintenance, and budget issues, while also supporting NATO and European defense policy. Prior to the Hill, Scheunemann was a research assistant at the Center for European Policy Analysis, and also had internships at the Washington Free Beacon and the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Scheunemann is a Master of Public and International Affairs candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where her research focuses on international security policy and the rise of populism in Central Europe. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from American University and spent a wonderful year abroad at the Charles University in Prague, Czechia and the Free University in Berlin, Germany.



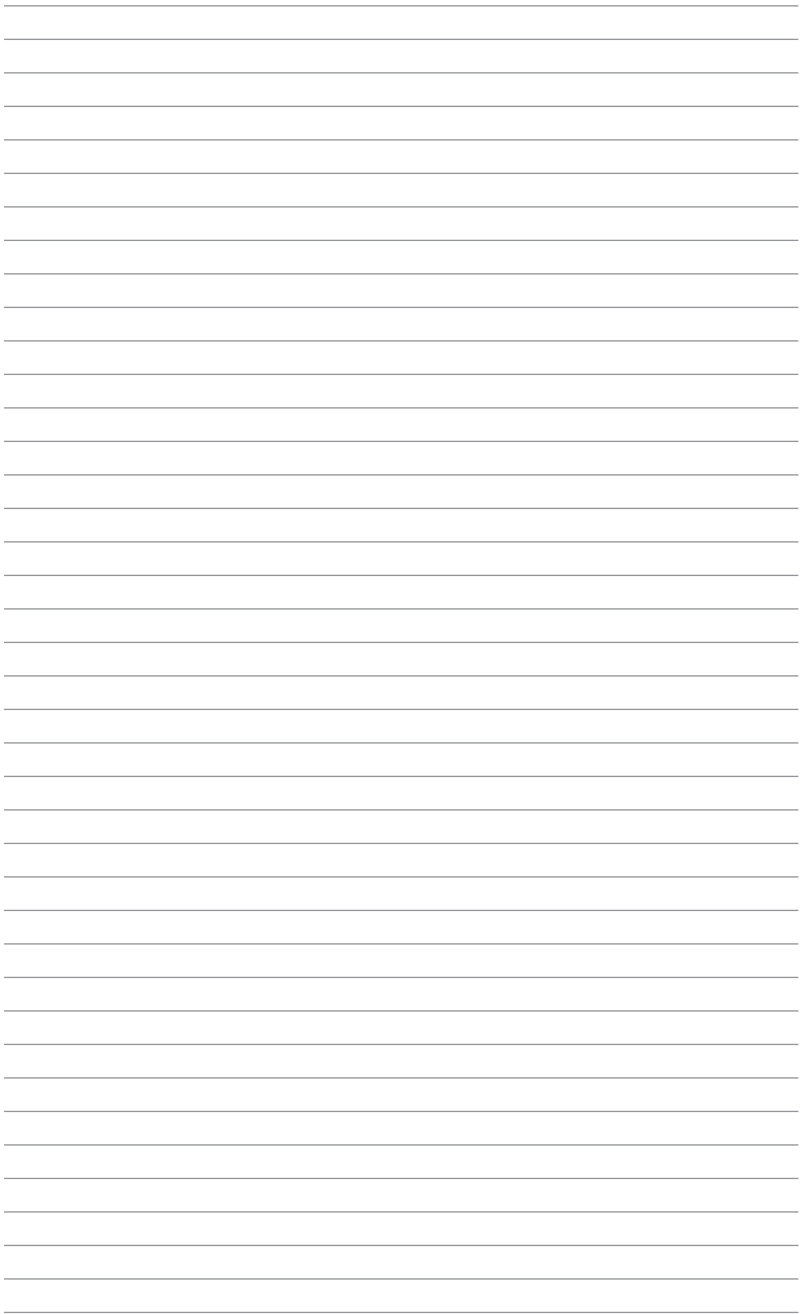
## VITALI SHKLIAROV

COLUMNIST AND AN EXPERT IN  
U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

Dr. Vitali Shkliarov is a firm. Harvard University fellow, columnist and an expert in U.S.-European relations, an award-winning political strategist, and grassroots activist. He was senior adviser to many opposition and presidential candidates in USA, Germany, Russia, Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine. He lives in Washington, D.C. and has worked on both Barack Obama's and Bernie Sanders's presidential campaigns.



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# 6<sup>th</sup> TBILISI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

