INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Autocratic Challenge
Assessing Autocratization Processes
in Contemporary Times

15-16 November 2018

Institute for European Studies (IEE)
salle Kant
39, av. Franklin Roosevelt,
1050 Bxl,

Scientific Committee:

Aude Merlin, Université libre de Bruxelles
Luca Tomini, Université libre de Bruxelles
Elena Aoun, Université Catholique de Louvain
Andrea Cassani, University of Milan
Jean-Michel Chaumont, Université Catholique de Louvain
Ramona Coman, Université libre de Bruxelles
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Leonardo Morlino, LUISS Rome
Philippe Schmitter, European University Institute
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Organizing Committee:

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Luca Tomini, Université libre de Bruxelles
Yalchin Mammadov, Université libre de Bruxelles
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Info and registration: www.cevipol.be; www.iee-ulb.eu

Wlady Quinet (ULB - DE)
**Thursday 15th November 2018**

**09h30 Opening:** welcoming reception

**09h45:** Introduction to the conference: Luca Tomini (ULB) and Aude Merlin (ULB)

**10h00 PANEL 1:** From democratization to autocratization: the current debate
Chair: Luca Tomini (ULB)
- Andrea Cassani and Luca Tomini (University of Milan and ULB) Modes of Autocratization: A Cross-Regional Qualitative Comparative Analysis 1990-2015, co-authored by Luca Tomini.
- Anna Lührmann and Staffan I. Lindberg (V-Dem Institute/University of Gothenburg) Keeping the Democratic Façade: Contemporary Autocratization as a Game of Deception co-authored by Staffan I.

**11h20 coffee break**

**11h40 PANEL 2:** Explaining autocratization: from institutions to agency (1)
Chair: Seda Gurkan (ULB)
- Clémentine Fauconnier (CESSP/EHESS Paris) Strangely familiar: how democratic procedures and institutions became tools of autocratization, the case of Russia
- Jan Völkel (VUB) The generals’ elections. How the Egyptian regime derailed the revolution

**13h00 Lunch**

**14h00 PANEL 3:** Explaining autocratization: from institutions to agency (2)
Chair: Vanessa Frangville (ULB)
- Jérôme Doyon (Oxford) Clientelism by design: Personnel politics in China under Xi Jinping
- Isil Erdinç (Paris Dauphine) Labour unions and the state: How to build an authoritarian regime or social basis of the AKP power in Turkey(2002-2015)
- Dragomir Stoyanov (University of Sofia) Democracy backsliding in Bulgaria, and the role of national-populist and Eurosceptic parties

**16h30 End of first day**

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**Friday 16th November 2018**

**09h15 Opening**

**09h30 PANEL 4:** Democracy and autocratization
Chair: Yalchin Mammadov (ULB)
- Andrew Bradley (IDEA International Brussels) The resilience of democracy.
- Peter Sondergaard (European Endowment for Democracy) Civic courage and activism as tools of de-autocratization.
- Eugénie Mérieau (University of Goettingen) Towards a Theory of Dual Constitutionalism: The gray zone of illiberal Democracy

**11h00 Coffee break**

**11h15 PANEL 5:** The external dimension of autocratization processes
Chair: Aude Merlin (ULB)
- Ronan Van Rossem (University of Ghent) Aid and the State. Explaining (Divergent) Political Regime Dynamics in Rwanda and Burundi. 1994 – 2015, co-authored by Mathias De Roeck (University of Antwerp)
- Anton Shekhovtsov (University of Vienna) Russia’s Mimetic and Dark Powers and European Democracies

**13h15 -14h15 Lunch**

**14h15 PANEL 6:** The European Union and autocratization within and beyond its borders
Chair: Ekaterina Gloriozova (ULB)
- Ramona Coman (ULB) and Cécile Leconte (Sciences Po Lille) Defending “illiberalism” in the name of sovereignty and common values in Central Europe
- Seda Gurkan and Luca Tomini (ULB) Exploring the causal link between De-Europeanization and Autocratization in contemporary Europe
- Natasha Wunsch (ETH Zurich) Democratization in Doubt: Comparing Democratic Backsliding Before and After EU Accession
- Antonino Castaldo (University of Lisbon) Back to Competitive Authoritarianism? Democratic Backsliding in Vučić’s Serbia

**16h30 End of conference**