



**25-26 November 2021, RMIT University, Melbourne Australia and
virtually**

Conference theme:

Beyond Borders and Boundaries: Europe, Eurasia and Asia



GENERAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program – Day 1 Thursday 25th November 2021

8:30am – 9:00am	Registration (if relevant)		
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome address		
9:15am – 10:30am	Keynote Presentation: <i>Priests of Prosperity</i> Professor Juliet Johnson, MacGill University		
10:30am – 10:45am	Morning Tea		
10:45am – 12:15pm	Session 1A European Union Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Contestation	Session 1B Roundtable: Russia and Europe: An Old Debate Revisited	Session 1C Environmental politics and governance in post-Communist Eurasia
12:15pm – 1:00pm	Lunch		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Conference Lecture: <i>From Yeltsin to Putin: From Democracy to Autocracy?</i> Prof. Graeme Gill, University of Sydney		
2:00am – 3:20pm	Session 2A Society and democracy	Session 2B Roundtable: Behind and Beyond Cold War in Europe, Eurasia and Asia	Session 2C Covid-19 Diplomacy
3:20pm – 3:35pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:35pm – 4:55pm	Session 3A Transgressing Borders and Boundaries in the Searching for Self	Session 3B Russia and its neighbours: Historical perspectives	Session 3C Central Asia: foreign policy, strategy and international relations
4:55pm – 6:15pm	Session 4A Geographies of the Balkan Route (with premiering Documentary screening exclusive to conference participants)	Session 4B Boundaries-historical mortality and politics	Session 4C China: economy, trade and the environment
6:15pm – 6:45pm	AACAPS AGM		
7:00pm	Conference Dinner (TBC)		

Program – Day 2 Friday 26th November 2021

8:45am – 9:15am	Registration (if relevant)		
9:15am – 10:30am	<p align="center">Special Event <i>Nagorny Karabakh. Road to Peace and Cooperation</i> Russian Ambassador to Australia, Dr. Alexey Pavlovsky</p>		
10:30am – 10:45am	Morning Tea		
10:45am – 12:15pm	<p align="center">Session 5A Europe: Integration and disintegration</p>	<p align="center">Session 5B Russia: Media, digital strategy, and politics.</p>	<p align="center">Session 5C Central Asia: Trade, development, and economic partnerships</p>
12:15pm – 1:00pm	Lunch and the ESAANZ Essay Competition Awards		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<p align="center">Conference Lecture: <i>The Return of the State and the Decline of Neo-liberalism in Europe and Asia.</i> Prof. Leslie Holmes, Melbourne University</p>		
2:00pm – 3:20pm	<p align="center">Session 6A Europe and Education policies</p>	<p align="center">Session 6B Russia and its neighbours: Current relationships and prospects for the future</p>	<p align="center">Session 6C Borders and Covid-19 Pandemic</p>
3:20pm – 3:35pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:35pm – 4:55pm	<p align="center">Session 7A Borders and identities in the Balkans</p>	<p align="center">Session 7B Georgia and Eastern Europe at the crossroads</p>	<p align="center">Session 7C Uzbekistan: Policies, education, and public health</p>
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Awards Presentation and Closing address		

Conference Concludes 5:30pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

25 November 2021, 9:15am – 10:30am

Professor Juliet Johnson
Professor, McGill University

Priests of Prosperity: How Central Bankers Transformed the Postcommunist World



Juliet Johnson's research focuses on the politics of money and identity, particularly in post-communist Europe. She is Professor in the Department of Political Science at McGill University, an Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Network Director of the Jean Monnet network "Between the EU and Russia: Domains of Diversity and Contestation." She is the author of *Priests of Prosperity: How Central Bankers Transformed the Postcommunist World* (Cornell 2016) and *A Fistful of Rubles: The Rise and Fall of the Russian Banking System* (Cornell 2000), lead editor of *Religion and Identity in Modern Russia: The Revival of Orthodoxy and Islam* (Ashgate 2005), and author of numerous scholarly and policy-oriented articles, including in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *the Journal of European Public Policy*, *the Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Central Banking*, and *Review of International Political Economy*, among others. For many years she was editor-in-chief and co-editor of *Review of International Political Economy*; she currently serves on its International Advisory Board. She is a member of PONARS Eurasia, and has been an Advisory Council member for the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a Research Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution, and the A. John Bittson National Fellow at the Hoover Institution. At McGill, she previously served as McGill Director of the Jean Monnet Centre Montréal, as Chair of the Department of Political Science, as Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) for the Faculty of Arts, and as an elected member of the McGill University Board of Governors. She has received the University's David Thomson Award for Graduate Supervision and Teaching and the Faculty's H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching. She earned her PhD and MA in Politics from Princeton University and her AB in International Relations from Stanford University.

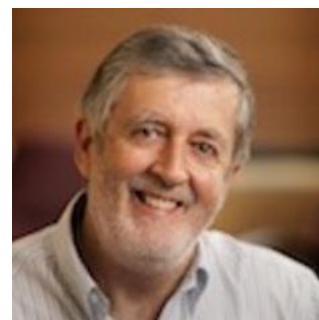
CONFERENCE LECTURE PRESENTERS

25 November 2021, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Professor Graeme Gill

Emeritus Professor, Sydney University

Title: From Yeltsin to Putin: From Democracy to Autocracy?



Graeme Gill is Professor Emeritus of Government at the University of Sydney, where he taught for more than thirty years. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a former President both of this association and of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES). He has been a long-time student of Soviet and Russian politics, and has published widely in this area as well as in the development of the state and in democratization. His most recent book, *Bridling Dictators. Rules and Authoritarian Politics*, was published by OUP earlier this month.

26 November 2021, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Professor Leslie Holmes

Emeritus Professor, The University of Melbourne

Title: The Return of the State and the Decline of Neo-liberalism in Europe and Asia.



Leslie Holmes has been a Professor of Political Science at the University of Melbourne since 1988, and Professor Emeritus there since 2014. He also teaches annually in Warsaw (Polish Academy of Sciences) and Beijing (Renmin University), and sometimes at the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna; until 2016, he also taught annually at the University of Bologna. In addition to almost 100 articles and book chapters, he has authored or edited 17 books – including *Corruption: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press: 2015 – also in Chinese, German, Russian, Spanish and Thai editions) - and his work has been published in 19 languages. His most recent research monograph is *Comparing Police Corruption: Bulgaria, Germany, Russia and Singapore* (Routledge: September 2021). He specialises in Communism and post-communism, corruption and organised crime. Professor Holmes was President of the International Council for Central and East European Studies 2000-2005, and has been a consultant to the World Bank and Transparency International. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 1995, and in 2017 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Australian Political Studies Association.

SPECIAL EVENT

26 November 2021, 9:15am – 10:30am

Title: Nagorny Karabakh. Road to Peace and Cooperation

Speaker: Ambassador of Russian Federation to Commonwealth of Australia His Excellency Dr. Alexey V. Pavlovsky



Dr. Alexey Pavlovsky has graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1985. In 1988, he received a doctorate degree in history from the Institute.

On the diplomatic service since 1988. 1988-1992 – Attaché, Third Secretary, Soviet/Russian Embassy in Afghanistan; 1993-1994 – Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Third Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; 1995-1999 – First Secretary, Russian Embassy in Namibia; 2000-2003 – Counsellor, Section Director, First CIS Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; 2003-2006 – Senior Counsellor, Minister-Counsellor, Russian Embassy in Portugal; 2006-2011 – Deputy Director, Fourth CIS Department (South Caucasus), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; 2011-2019 – Director, Fourth CIS Department (South Caucasus), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. During his work at Fourth CIS Department, Nagorny Karabakh conflict was one of the foci of his research and analysis.

Appointed as Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Commonwealth of Australia by the Executive Order of the President of the Russian Federation № 145 dated April 3, 2019. Has a diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Speaks English, Persian and French. Married.

Chair of the session: Dr. Kirill Nourzhanov

Dr Kirill Nourzhanov is Senior Lecturer and Convenor of PhD Studies at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University. His main research specialisation is on Central Asian politics and international relations, but his interests also cover Islamic radicalism, Eurasian geopolitics, and history of the former USSR.



Dr Nourzhanov has worked as an academic consultant on the World Bank-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. He has served as Associate Editor of the *Asian Politics and Policy* journal and has been a member of the executive of the Australian Society for Inner Asian Studies. He was the President of the Australasian Association for Communist and Post-communist Studies twice. Dr Nourzhanov's research has previously been awarded funding by the Australian Research Council. Dr Nourzhanov's books include *Tajikistan: A Political and Social History* (with Christian Bleuer, ANU Press, 2013) and *The Afghanistan Security Threat: Security Dilemmas for Central Asia and Beyond* (with Amin Saikal, Bloomsbury, 2021).

DETAILED PROGRAM

Thursday 25 November 2021

Session 1

**10.45am to
12.15pm**

Session 1A. European Union Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Contestation

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Serena Kelly, University of Canterbury

Rising Sea Levels in the Pacific: Responsibility to Assist - Mitigation and Adaptation Before Migration

Lauren Bland, University of Canterbury

From Policy setting to Implementation: The EU development policy as a vehicle to achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. A Case Study of Zimbabwe on SDG 4.

Cashias Gumbo, University of Canterbury

Geopolitical contestations in the Pacific: China and the European Union

Serena Kelly, University of Canterbury, New Zealand and Mathew Doidge, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

A United EUrope 'from the Atlantic to the Urals,' or not that far?

Dr Milenko Petrovic, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Session 1B. Russia and Europe: An Old Debate Revisited.

Link:

Room:

(roundtable)

Session chair: Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover, Monash University

Hegel's "world historical process" and the conceptualizing of Russian history by Nikolai Danilevsky, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and more recent Russian realpolitik

Session Participants:

Edward Ascroft

Nicholas Ulbrick

James Jackson

Session 1C. Environmental politics and governance in post-Communist Eurasia

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Fengshi Wu, University of New South Wales

Environmental Governance in Transition States: institutional arrangements, policymaking, and capacity in the post-Soviet space

Ellie Martus, Griffith University

Stakeholder dynamics in Environmental Policy Making in Kazakhstan

Darzhan Kazbekova, Syracuse University

Movements and governance building: comparing environmental politics in post-Communist Kazakhstan and Mongolia

Fengshi Wu, University of New South Wales

Varieties of orchestration in transnational environmental governance: the case of Belt and Road Initiative Green Coalition

Qingge Geng, Hong Kong Baptist University and Kevin Lo, Hong Kong Baptist University

Session 2

2pm to 3.20pm

Session 2A. Society and democracy

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Leslie Holmes, Melbourne University

The Origins of "East European Studies" and "Communist Studies" (and what that history tells us about the future of the field)

Miglena Todorova, University of Toronto

Italian Communists: Where they came from and where they went?

Marco Brunazzo, University of Trento and Bruno Mascitelli, Swinburne University of Technology

The (Mis)Use of Religion by the Law and Justice Party in Post-Communist Poland

Matthew Coote, EU Centre, RMIT University

Session 2B. Behind and Beyond Cold War in Europe, Eurasia and Asia (Roundtable)

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Kirill Nourzhanov, ANU

Roundtable Participants:

Roger Markwick, Newcastle University

Roderic Pitty, Deakin University

Session 2C. Covid-19 Diplomacy

Link:

Session chair: Nina Markovic, Macquarie University

Room:

China's and Russia's Covid-19 diplomacy: selected case studies from Europe, Asia and Africa

Nina Markovic, Macquarie University

Intellectual Property, Geopolitics and COVID-19 Vaccines

Binoy Kampmark, RMIT University

Latin America's responses to the pandemic: implications to regional and global security

Flavia Bellieni Zimmermann, University of Western Australia

Session 3**3.35pm to 4.55pm****Session 3A. Transgressing Borders and Boundaries in the Searching for Self**

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Gosia Klatt, Melbourne University

Transgressing the Borders of Cultures, Religious and Languages in Jelena Dimitrijević's Travelogues

Magdalena Koch, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

Travelling between Polish People's Republic and People's Republic of Bulgaria: Queering the Experience of Boundaries within the Eastern Bloc

Ada Kovacheva, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

Session 3B. Russia and its neighbours: Historical perspectives

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Roderic Pitty, Deakin University

Western Borders of 'Russia' : the millennium perspective

Dr Anna Taitlin, University of Canberra

The Border Crisis: The Flight of Soviet Refugees to Iran, 1928-1933

Marcus James, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, The Australian National University

Reshaping the Boundaries of Historical Narratives: The Reconstruction of WWII History in Contemporary China-Russia Relations

Alexandr Korolev, University of New South Wales

Session 3C. Central Asia: foreign policy, strategy and international relations

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Reuel Hanks, Oklahoma State University

Tajikistan's foreign policy towards Russia: normative boundaries of the 'privileged strategic partnership'

Kirill Nourzhanov, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, The Australian National University

Eurasian 'Cultural Globalism' and (perhaps) learning to live with the Taliban?

Manu P. Sobti, University of Queensland and Sofya Glazunova, Queensland University of Technology

Regional aspirations for Central and South Asia connectivity: Factoring in the geopolitical imaginaries of the regional and global powers

Shuhrat Baratov, Australian National University

Session 4

4.55pm to 6.15pm

Session 4A. Geographies of the Balkan Route (with premiering Documentary screening exclusive to conference participants)

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Claudio Minca, University of Bologna

Roundtable Participants:

Jessica Collins, Macquarie University

Joanna Jordan, University of Bologna

Petar Bojovic, Macquarie University

Session 4B. Boundaries-historical mortality and politics

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Stephen G. Wheatcroft, University of Melbourne

Mapping mortality across the Ukrainian-Russian border in the Great Famine (Golodomor) of 1932/3

Stephen G. Wheatcroft, University of Melbourne and Ian Bishop, University of Melbourne

Mapping mortality across the Moldovan-Ukrainian- border in the Great Famine of 1946/7

Filip Slaveski, Deakin University, Stephen G. Wheatcroft, University of Melbourne, Igor Casu, State University, Chişinău and Ian Bishop, University of Melbourne

Mapping mortality across the Moldovan-Rumanian- border in the Great Famine of 1946/7

Igor Casu, State University, Chişinău Stephen G. Wheatcroft, University of Melbourne and Ian Bishop, University of Melbourne

Session 4C. China: economy, trade and the environment

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Alfinura Shafeyeva, University of Adelaide

Friendly border? Russian exports to China

Stephen Fortescue, University of New South Wales

China's hybrid economy: A threat to the global trade system?

Boyka Stefanova, University of Texas at San Antonio and Paskal Zhelev, University of National and World Economy, Sofia

Coastal City and Zero Waste Masterplanning: Exploring a Strategy of Resilience and Inclusion

Jacqueline Wang, University of Macau

Quo vadis "Zhong Ou Guan Xi": China-EU relations? Europe's Pivot to the Indo-Pacific

Remy Davison and Nina Markovic Khaze

Friday 26 November 2021

Session 5

**10.45am to
12.15pm**

Session 5A. Europe: Integration and disintegration

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Bruno Mascitelli, Swinburne University of Technology

Resolving the Irish Border Question

Bruce Wilson, EU Centre RMIT University

Breaking up is hard to do? devolution within post-Brexit UK

Russell Solomon, RMIT University

Offshoring: 'Virtual migration', virtual integration and the EU Single Market

Rémy Davison, Monash University

Session 5B. Russia: Media, digital strategy, and politics.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Perparim (Rimi) Xhaferi, RMIT University

Russia's crossing of borders and boundaries through non-traditional statecraft in the Middle East

Ian Parmeter, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University

RT and its digital publics. The analysis of pro-Kremlin media audiences on Facebook

Sofya Glazunova, Queensland University of Technology

Invading boundaries, how western media framed sanctions against Russia

Achin Alam de Merlo, Graduate Institute - (IHEID) Geneva

Session 5C. Central Asia: Trade, development, and economic partnerships.

Link:
Room:

Session chair: Alexandr Akimov, Griffith University

Will the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) redraw Asia's commercial boundaries?

Hans Hendrichske, University of Sydney

The European Union and Central Asia: Economic Development and Trade

Richard Pomfret, University of Adelaide

RVC and GVC in Central Asia: the Leontief inverse approach to trade in value added decomposition

Alfinura Shafeyeva, University of Adelaide

Kazakhstan's Investment Strategy towards China, Korea, and Japan: Place and Role of Foreign Investments (2010-2019)

Almas Dissyukov, University of Tsukuba

Session 6

2pm to 3.20pm

Session 6A. Europe and Education policies.

Link:

Session chair: Bruce Wilson, EU Centre RMIT University

Room:

Supporters and Opponents of Elite Schools in Post-communist Poland: Online Public Commentary

Alexandra Margaret Dunwill, Australian Institute of Polish Affairs, Monash University

Constructing common European education space - the role of post-communist Member States

Gosia Klatt, University of Melbourne

From Participation towards Deepening EU Integration? – Harmonizing Bosnia and Herzegovina's role in the European Research Area

Dženeta Karabegović University of Salzburg and Nedžma Džananović, University of Sarajevo

Session 6B. Russia and its neighbours: Current relationships and prospects for the future.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Graeme Gill, University of Sydney

Russian (non)boundaries: Belarus, do you want to be next Ukraine?

Nina Basok, Riga Graduate School of Law

The “far reaching arm of the Kremlin” in action or attempts to confine freedom of speech? “Moscow agents” in Ukrainian public discourse

Ludmilla A’Beckett, University of the Free State

Mongolia and Russia: A Century of Relations, Prospects for the 2020s

Sureyya Yigit, New Vision University

Session 6C. Borders and Covid-19 Pandemic.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Nina Markovic, Macquarie University

Redrawing boundaries: Transformations in the COVID-19 era

Maren Klein, RMIT University

The geopolitical failure of the EU and nationalism in the Covid 19 pandemic

Roderic Pitty, Deakin University

Session 7

3.35pm to 4.55pm

Session 7A. Borders and identities in the Balkans.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Milenko Petrovic, Canterbury University

Boundaries between brothers-in-law – Identity in Slovenia and Croatia in the period 2020 and 2021

Mario Niklas Schäfer, University of Passau

Croatian-Bosnian border as the psychological boundary for Farci-speaking migrant population - strategies and meaning

Sonja Krnjeta Ivanovic, Center for Cultural Dialogue and Djordje Ivanovic, University of Belgrade

Borderless Western Balkans within EU?

Perparim (Rimi) Xhaferi, RMIT University

Session 7B. Georgia and Eastern Europe at the crossroads.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Ludmilla A'Beckett, University of the Free State

The return to Asia: Toward a Rebordering of the Postsocialist Predicament?

Francesco Trupia, Nicolaus Copernicus University

EU as a 'Dream Land' for post- Soviet Georgia

Nino Tabeshadze, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Georgia at the crossroads

Matt Harvey, Victoria University Melbourne

Session 7C. Uzbekistan: Policies, education, and public health.

Link:

Room:

Session chair: Sofya Glazunova, Queensland University of Technology

Student success in university business and economics degrees in Uzbekistan: Do student characteristics and choices affect their academic performance?

Alexandr Akimov, Griffith University

Internationalisation of Higher Education as a Threat: Voices of University Lecturers in Post-Soviet Uzbekistan

Dilnoza Ubaydullaeva, Australian National University

COVID-19 Policy in Uzbekistan: Slipping Back Toward Authoritarianism?

Reuel Hanks, Oklahoma State University