



FRIAS Conference

Understanding the Rise of Autocrats in the 21st Century:
Digital Propaganda, Populism, and (Hybrid) Warfare

April 17-19, 2024

Organized by

Nikita Zakharov (University of Freiburg)

Valentin Klotzbücher (University of Freiburg)

Andrey Tkachenko (Nazarbayev University)

Program (February 2024)

Organizer:

Nikita Zakharov , Valentin Klotzbücher, Andrey Tkachenko

Note:

All sessions will include up to three presentations of 30 minutes each (20 for presentation and 10 minutes for questions and comments). The guided tour is a less structured social event that will allow a more thorough opportunity for communication, as well as enjoying a sightseeing walk in the beautiful city center of Freiburg. The professional event will be dedicated to conducting research at an exceptional time of war: Andrey Tkachenko will present a grass-root initiative to monitor public opinion in wartime Russia. The Farewell address will incorporate a discussion between participants and their feedback about the event as a guideline for future events of this type.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

12:30 - 15:30	Arrival & Registration (FRIAS Lounge)	Meeting for Organizers
15:30 - 16:00	Welcome Address by FRIAS Director Ralf von den Hoff	
16:00 - 17:00	Keynote 1 - Franziska Barbara Keller How do we learn about authoritarian politics? Thinking about the role of experts, their networks and government propaganda	
17:00 - 17:30	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)	
17:30 - 18:30	Session 1 - Propaganda and social media Koen Schoors: Can Authoritarian Propaganda Compete with the Opposition on Social Media? Experimental Evidence from Russia Matteo Grigoletto: Censorship in Europe	
18:30 - 22:00	Welcome Reception (Fingerfood & Drinks, FRIAS Lounge)	

Thursday, April 18, 2024

09:00 - 10:00	Session 2 - COVID-19 pandemic Ekaterina Borisova: Fear and support for regulation Diana Zarbailova: COVID-19 Cash Transfers and Incumbent's Approval: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Russia	
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)	
10:30 - 12:00	Keynote 2 - Ruben Enikolopov Political Economy of Social Media	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break (FRIAS Lounge)	
13:00 - 14:00	Session 3 - Historical economics Olga Popova: Echoes of the Past: The Enduring Impact of Communism on Contemporary Freedom of Speech Values Alexander Libman: Mirrors and Mosaics: Deciphering Chinese and Russian Domestic Bloc-Building Narratives Michael Alexeev: Russia's "Impressionable Years" and Putin's Inheritance	
14:00 - 14:30	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)	
14:30 - 15:30	Professional event: Andrey Tkachenko: Public Opinion Research in the Time of War: Presentation of the Project „Chronicles“	
16:00 - 17:30	Social Event: Guided Freiburg City Tour	
18:00	Conference Dinner (Blauer Fuchs)	

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Friday, April 19, 2024

09:30 - 10:30	<u>Session 4 - Propaganda and traditional media</u> Philine Widmer : Is Propaganda Front-Page News? Nikita Zakharov : Political Cycles of Media Repression
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)
11:00 - 12:30	<u>Session 5 - Business in autocracies</u> Michael Rochlitz : Authoritarian Surveillance, Innovation and Growth Vasily Korovkin : Trade sanctions Andrei Yakovlev : Russian Business in 2022-2023: Sources of Resilience and Expectations for the Future
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break (FRIAS Lounge)
13:30 - 14:30	Round Table Discussion: The future of autocratization
14:30 - 15:30	Farewell Address

MAP of Freiburg showing

FRIAS – Albertstrasse 19, 79104 Freiburg

Stadthotel Freiburg

Karlstraße 7, 79104 Freiburg im Breisgau

Tel.: 0761 31 93 197

Freiburg Hauptbahnhof / Freiburg main station

