

The Forms of Authoritarianism One-Day Conference

Thursday, MARCH 22
UConn Harford, Hartford Club
46 Prospect St, Hartford

Conference Overview

In 1993, Oxford historian Roger Griffin wrote, “...as a *political ideology* capable of spawning new movements [fascism] should be treated as a permanent feature of modern political culture.” Whether we want to call it fascism, white nationalism, or simply dictatorship, it is clear that various forms of right-wing authoritarianism are on the rise in the world today, and that Roger Griffin’s claim, issued at the very onset of the post-Cold War world, has never rung more true.

This one-day conference brings together scholars and journalists at the University of Connecticut and across the region to discuss the various forms that authoritarianism is taking in the world today, from the Philippines to India, to Argentina and Venezuela, to Europe and the United States. It also aims to place this authoritarianism in historical perspective, comparing it to the anti-democratic currents of yesterday, whether in fascist Europe or in the Cold War dictatorships of Latin America.

Panelists will address: what are the dynamics of authoritarianism in the site they study? What forms does its policies and political rhetoric take? What is the relationship between economic insecurity and anti-democratic currents? What politics and institutional structures of the old regime fuel the rise of authoritarianism? It is genuinely populist, facilitated by elites, or both?

We look forward to engaged discussion on a troubled time in global history.

The Main Day

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| 9:00-9:30am | Welcome/Opening Remarks
(Mark Overmyer-Velazquez & Chris Vials) |
| 9:30-10:30am | Panel 1: New Authoritarian Currents in Asia
~Nerissa Balce (SUNY Stony Brook) on Duterte and the Philippines
~Prakash Kashwan (Uconn) on Modi and India |
| 10:40-11:40 | Panel 2: Authoritarianism/Anti-Authoritarianism in Latin America
~Ernesto Semán (University of Richmond) on Populism in the Americas
~Ariel Lambe (University of Connecticut) on Antifascism in Cuba |

- 11:45-1pm **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:00pm **Panel 3: Europe: Coming to Terms**
~Heather Horn (former Senior editor of *The Atlantic*) on current European anti-immigrant movements
~Philip Balma (UConn) on Italian fascism (not yet confirmed)
- 2:10-3:10pm **Panel 4: It Can't Happen Here: Anti-Democratic/Fascist Tendencies in the United States**
~Chris Vials (UConn) on historical US fascist movements
~Jesse Myerson (free-lance writer in NYC) on the contemporary alt-right
- 3:10-3:30pm Break
- 3:30pm **Keynote:** Ben Kiernan