



**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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

**Program – Day 2   Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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

Session chair: Leslie Holmes, Melbourne University

Room:

**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:

Session chair: Kirill Nourzhanov, ANU

Room:

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:

Session chair: Gosia Klatt, Melbourne University

Room:

**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:

Session chair: Roderic Pitty, Deakin University

Room:

**Western Borders of 'Russia' : the millennium perspective**

Dr Anna Taitslin, 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**

Session chair: Reuel Hanks, Oklahoma State University

Link:

Room:

**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)**

Session chair: Claudio Minca, University of Bologna

Link:

Room:

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, Chișinău and Ian Bishop, University of Melbourne

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

Igor Casu, State University, Chișinău 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: Alexandre Akimov, Griffith University

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

Hans Hendrischke, 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 Dassyukov, 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:

Session chair: Nina Markovic, Macquarie University

Room:

**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 Farsi-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