

Uniting the Right through ideas? Metapolitics at the transnational level

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TO CITE

Behr, V. (2022). Uniting the Right through ideas? Metapolitics at the transnational level. In *Proceedings of the Paris Institute for Advanced Study* (Vol. 18). https://paris.pias.science/article/INTEL_2022_09_uniting-the-right-through-ideas

PUBLICATION DATE

02/06/2022

ABSTRACT

Intellectuals against liberal democracy. Academia, media, and culture, Paris IAS, 2-3 June 2022 - Panel 2 - Illiberal intellectuals figures

In this presentation I propose a framework to study *right-wing Gramscianism* from a perspective inspired by the sociology of intellectuals and the social history of political ideas. The aim is to place the study of conservative turning points in a processual perspective and in temporalities longer than the electoral conjuncture. Shifting the focus to the fringes of the political field allows us to understand the role of civil society actors (intellectuals, academics, journalists) in the production and diffusion of conservative ideas. The analysis is based on the articulation of three fields of investigation: Poland, France, and the transnational conservative intellectual space. The aim is to understand the mutual references and influences between different streams of the right, on both sides of the former Iron Curtain: how do ideas circulate, transnationally (from one country to another) and transsectorially (between intellectual and political fields)? What are the factors (social, material, institutional) and the contexts that favor these circulations?

I argue that the current context is that of an ideological recomposition of the right, with the diffusion of conservative ideas on a global scale. This move has been favored by an exchange and circulation of ideas within a transnational conservative space, whose geography has shifted towards Central Europe following the success of “illiberal democracies”. I retrace the emergence of the conservative Internationale (section 1), the social trajectories of some of its key members (section 2) and make some more general arguments regarding the recomposition of the global right and the transnational circulation of political ideas (sections 3 and 4).

