

# MARAT ILIYASOV, Ph.D.

A Chechen Scholar of International Relations, History, and Comparative Politics. I focus on the history of the Russo-Chechen interaction, wars, and post-war relations; post-Soviet conflicts in wider Eurasia; religious radicalization and governance of religions, authoritarianism and memory politics in Russia and Chechnya.

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## EMPLOYMENT

- July 2023 – Research Fellow at Global Russia Academy (Elliott School of International Relations, GWU).
- Sept. 2022-Jun 2023. Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University.
- Sept 2021 – Aug 2022. Post-doctoral researcher at Wisconsin University-Madison. Wisconsin Russia project.
- May 15– May 31, 2022. Visiting Scholar at Elliott School of International Relations, George Washington University.
- Dec 2018 – Sept 2022. Researcher at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania. Religious governance and radicalization in Russia. Project „Radicalisation, Secularism and the Governance of Religion: Bringing together European and Asian Perspectives - GREASE“ Nr. 770640.
- Sept 2019- Sept 2020. Associate Lecturer (University of St. Andrews, School of IR).
- Sept 2014 – Aug 2018. Adjunct Professor (University of St. Andrews, School of IR).
- Sept 2017 – Aug 2018. Adjunct Professor (School of Politics and Social Sciences, Edinburgh University).

## EDUCATION

- 2013-2017 – Ph.D. in International Relations (University of St. Andrews, Scotland).
- 2011 –2013 MA “Caucasus Studies” (Ilia State University, Georgia).
- 2002 –2004 MA “Diplomacy and Negotiation” (Vilnius University, Lithuania).
- 1998 – 2002 BA International Relations and Political Sciences (Vilnius University).

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Post-Soviet politics and society, comparative authoritarianism, domestic and foreign politics, political violence, political demography, collective identity, memory politics.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Procreation for the sake of the Nation* (forthcoming in 2024, under contract with Lexington).

### Peer-reviewed articles

2023. “Governing religion in Russia and Bulgaria: Between religious diversity and religious nationalism.”

*Ethnicities* Special Issue, 1-19 (with L. Yakova and V. Bogdanova. Impact factor 1.3).

2022. “Dynamics in state-religion relations in post-communist Central Eastern Europe and Russia.” *Religion, State and Society* 4, 415-435 (with D. Vekony & E. Račius. Impact factor 1.45).

2021. “Security and religion – the discursive legitimation of the Chechen authorities.” *Journal of Muslims in Europe* 10, 1-29 (impact factor 0.52).

2021. “To be or not to be a Chechen? The second generation of Chechens in Europe and their choices of identity.” *The Frontiers of Sociology* (impact factor 2.28. Article’s impact; 10447 views; view rank more than 99% in 2023).

2019. “Chechen Demographic Growth as a Reaction to Conflict: The Views of Chechens.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 71(10), 1705-1733 (impact factor 2.108).

2018. “Chechen Ethnic Identity: Assessing the Change from Resistance to Submission.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 54, (3), 475-493 (impact factor 0.45).

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2017. "Researching Chechen Diaspora in Europe: the Issues Faced." *Inter-Disciplinary Political Science Journal* 3, (1), 201-218.
2012. "Instability in the North Caucasus: Reasons, Factors, and Implications." *Caucasus and Globalization* 6, no. 3, 48-58.

### Chapters in edited volumes

2022. "Religious legitimization: indoctrination, de-legitimation, and pacification efforts in Chechnya." In G. Yemelianova and E. Racijs (eds.). *Routledge Handbook. Muslims of Post-Communist Eurasia*. Routledge.
2020. "Governance of religion in Russia: what, how, and why." In Triandafyllidou, A. and Magazzini, T. (eds.) *Routledge Handbook on the Governance of Religious Diversity*. Routledge, 131-145.

### Non-referenced book chapters and reports

2020. Report. **Radicalization and Resilience. Case Study: Russia.** [http://grease.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/10/WP4-Report\\_Russia-1.pdf](http://grease.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/10/WP4-Report_Russia-1.pdf)
2019. Report. "Radicalization in Russia. The roots and causes of Islamist radicalization in Russia: the state's response." <http://grease.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/10/Russia-Report.pdf>
- 2019 "Nation and Religion-Reflections on Europe, the MENA Region and South Asia" (with Triandafyllidou, A., H. Güllalp, G., Mahajan, and E. Racijs) [http://grease.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/05/GREASE-concept-paper\\_D1.3\\_Nation-and-Religion\\_30May2019\\_FINAL1-2.pdf](http://grease.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/05/GREASE-concept-paper_D1.3_Nation-and-Religion_30May2019_FINAL1-2.pdf)
2013. "Odds and Peculiarities of Family Life in the Caucasus." In Sipaviciene, Audra, and Rita Augutiene (eds.). *Handbook for Social Workers*. Vilnius: Baltijos kopija, 99-125 (in Lithuanian).
2008. "Models of Behaviour and Islam in Chechen Society." In Sipaviciene, Audra, and Rita Augutiene (eds.). *Handbook for Social Workers*. Vilnius: Baltijos kopija, 35-48 (in Lithuanian).
2007. "The Impact of the Regional Organisations to the Dis/Integration of the CIS." In Motieka, Egidijus (ed.). *CIS: Factors Restraining and Stimulating Integration and Development*. Vilnius: University Press, 35-69 (in Lithuanian).

### Book reviews

2024. Bonds of Blood? State-building and Clanship in Chechnya and Ingushetia. *State Crime Journal* (forthcoming in *State Crime Journal*, Issue 13(1)).
2020. From Conquest to Deportation: The North Caucasus under Russian Rule, written by Jeronim Perović. *Journal of Muslims in Europe*, 9(1), 131-134. (<https://doi.org/10.1163/22117954-12341414>)

### Media contributions and interviews

- 2023, December 18. Ramzan Kadyrov: Between Putin's Loyal Praetorian Guard and Devoted Servant of the Chechen People (with Jean- François Ratelle). <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/ramzan-kadyrov-between-putins-loyal-praetorian-guard-and-devoted-servant-of-the-chechen-people/>
- 2023, November 16. Palaidotos laisvės viltys: Čėčėnijoje sukilimo nuotaikų nematyti. IQ. By Evaldas Labanauskas. [https://iq.lt/iq-tema/palaidotos-laisves-viltys-nepaisant-su-rusijos-pralaimejimu-ukrainoje-siejamu-vilciu-sukilimo-nuotaiku-regione-nematyti/308988?fbclid=IwAR05yMoZEZ6gWVHp\\_tZtSzYOp5KVylOAcn57-ZmyY6Jrl7soZ84USPCMC4](https://iq.lt/iq-tema/palaidotos-laisves-viltys-nepaisant-su-rusijos-pralaimejimu-ukrainoje-siejamu-vilciu-sukilimo-nuotaiku-regione-nematyti/308988?fbclid=IwAR05yMoZEZ6gWVHp_tZtSzYOp5KVylOAcn57-ZmyY6Jrl7soZ84USPCMC4)
- 2023, November 9. (with Anya Free). [Chechnya's boss and Putin's foot soldier: How Ramzan Kadyrov became such a feared figure in Russia \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/chechnya-s-boss-and-putin-s-foot-soldier-how-ramzan-kadyrov-became-such-a-feared-figure-in-russia)
- 2023, November 3. Травма войны, оторванность от диаспоры: почему молодежь Кавказа в криминальных сводках Франции. *Kavkaz Reali.* By Andrey Krasno. <https://www.kavkazr.com/a/travma-voiny-otorvannosti-ot-diaspory-pochemu-molodezh-kavkaza-v-kriminalnyh-svodkah-frantsii/32668823.html?fbclid=IwAR1BSjKJOUpjZF4Ypat8fVGNvNIE4LrqHRMY-P1DFtEPNfyaxan8rNsabw>
- 2023, October 23. Chechens trying to find their place in Europe. OC Media. <https://oc-media.org/podcasts/podcast-chechens-trying-to-find-their-place-in-europe/>

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- 2023, October 13. Ramzan Kadyrov, Chechen Strategist of Russia's Middle East Policy. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/ramzan-kadyrov-chechen-strategist-russias-middle-east-policy> (with Anya Free).
  - 2023, October 2. What Would Change If Kadyrov Dies? [What Would Change If Kadyrov Dies? \(russiapost.info\)](https://russiapost.info)
  - 2023, April 17. Why it is important to study memory politics? <https://sites.miamioh.edu/havighurst/2023/04/17/why-it-is-important-to-study-memory-politics/>
  - 2022, December 16. The Chechen Footprint During Russian Wartime <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/the-chechen-footprint-during-russian-wartime/>
  - 2022, April 24 (with Y. Herrera). Similarities Stain the Kremlin's Warfare on Chechens and Ukrainians <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/similarities-stain-the-kremlins-warfare-on-chechens-and-ukrainians/>
  - 2022, March 19. Moscow's Manipulated Memory Politics and Attack on Ukraine <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/moscows-manipulated-memory-politics-and-attack-on-ukraine/>
  - March 24, 2022. Chechen, Tatar Muslims fight for Ukraine. By Monir Ghaedi. <https://www.dw.com/en/chechen-and-tatar-muslims-take-up-arms-to-fight-for-ukraine/a-61174375>
  - August 9, 2021. Georgian-Russian Relations. [Georgian-Chechen Relationships \(gfsis.org.ge\)](https://www.gfsis.org.ge)
  - 2020, October 19. Russia's imaginary radicals. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/global-extremes/russias-imaginary-radicals/>
  - 2020. September 30. The war that can become bloody: If Russia's and Turkey's collision over Nagorno Karabakh is possible? [https://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/karas-kuris-gali-tapti-itin-krivinas-ar-imanomas-turkijos-ir-rusijos-susidurimo-scenarijus.d?id=85369313&fbclid=IwAR22v91Mo8nqrRvAA9fJgukbCKyl-a78dAEv\\_Z69taBEEMeflyvTLeEi5fM](https://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/karas-kuris-gali-tapti-itin-krivinas-ar-imanomas-turkijos-ir-rusijos-susidurimo-scenarijus.d?id=85369313&fbclid=IwAR22v91Mo8nqrRvAA9fJgukbCKyl-a78dAEv_Z69taBEEMeflyvTLeEi5fM)
  - 2019, April 17. Ingushetia fears outbreak of violence <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Ingushetia/Ingushetia-fears-outbreaks-of-violence-194009>
  - 2019, January 10. Chechen demographic rise: reasons and concerns <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Chechnya/Chechen-demographic-rise-reasons-and-concerns-191886>
  - 2018, October 31. Chechnya-Ingushetia: a border change fuels new tensions <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Chechnya/Chechnya-Ingushetia-a-border-change-fuels-new-tensions-190905>

### Work in progress

2024. "Russia's war strategies: what Chechnya suggests for Ukraine" (with Y. Herrera. In preparation for resubmission to the *Problems of Post-Communism*).
2024. "Clash of collective memories in post-war Chechnya" (Forthcoming in *Post-Soviet Affairs*).
2024. "Chechnya: a unique case for the Russian Federation." In Hale, H. et al. (eds.) *Developments in Russian Politics. Textbook*. Bloomsbury (forthcoming).
2024. "Radicalization in Russia and state's response to it." In Hellyer H. and Grossman, M. (eds.) *Handbook on the Religious Radicalization*. Bloomsbury (forthcoming).
2024. "The critical points of Chechen collective memory." In D. Budryte and V. Davoliute (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Memory in Central and Eastern Europe*. Routledge (forthcoming).
2023. "Russia and the Russian-Chechen Conflict in the Collective Memory of Chechen Migrants in Europe." In C. Druey, M., Shogenov, and V., Tanailova (eds.) *Fighting for Self-Determination, Participation and Stability State-building, Civil Society and the Role of Historical Memories in Chechnya (1986 – 2021)*. Peter Lang Publishers (forthcoming).
2023. "The controversies of memory politics in authoritarian Chechnya." In Budryte, D. et al. (eds.) *Handbook on the Memory in Eastern Europe*. Routledge (forthcoming).

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- *Russian language and literature* (Guest Lecturer, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU).
- *Comparative politics* (Miami University of Ohio).
- *Russian foreign policy* (Miami University of Ohio).

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- *Putin's Russia / Russian domestic policy* (Miami University of Ohio).
  - *Wars and Peace in the Caucasus* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Conflict and Peace in Post-Communist Eurasia* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *The International Relations of Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Comparative Regionalism* (University of St Andrews).
  - *Theoretical Approaches to International Relations* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Introduction to International Relations* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Foreign Policy Analysis* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *International Security* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Issues in International Relations* (University of St. Andrews).
  - *Theories of International Relations* (University of Edinburgh).
  - *Politics in a Changing World* (University of Edinburgh).

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### Associations

- 2023 – present. Global Russian Academy (George Washington University).
- 2022-present. Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies (Miami University) [www.miamioh.edu/cas/academics/centers/havighurst/](http://www.miamioh.edu/cas/academics/centers/havighurst/)
- 2015 – present. Center for Middle East, Central Asia, and Caucasus (University of St. Andrews) <https://mecacs.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>
- 2022-present. Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia/PONARS (George Washington University) <http://www.ponarseurasia.org>
- 2021-present. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) <http://www.aseees.org>
- 2022-present. Central Eurasian Studies Association (CESS) <http://cess.org>
- 2021-present. Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) [Home | Association for the Study of Nationalities](#)

### Research visits:

- 2023 – Visiting Scholar at IOS Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies <https://leibniz-ios.de/en>
- 2023 - Visiting Scholar at the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEES) North Carolina University (CSEES) [The Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies \(unc.edu\)](#)
- 2022 – Visiting Scholar at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES) George Washington University [The Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies \(IERES\) – at the Elliott School of International Affairs \(gwu.edu\)](#)

## CONSULTING

- 2023 US State Department (Russian Desk) on Chechnya, Chechen government foreign and domestic politics and society.
- 2023 US Court on immigration case of Issa and Arkat Isakovs.
- 2022 US State Department on the reasons of war in Ukraine (focus on Russian memory politics).
- 2012 Lithuanian Department of Migration (on cultural tolerance, models of behavior and accommodation of cultural differences of the migrants).
- 2009 Lithuanian Department of Migration (on cultural differences between Lithuanians and Caucasians).
- 2006-2008 Lithuanian MFA via The Center of Strategic Studies (think-tank).

## AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS (selected)

2022/2023 - Kennan Institute (Wilson Centre) J. H. Billington Fellowship alternate candidate.  
 2021 - WRP (Wisconsin Russia Project) post-doctoral grant recipient.  
 2015 - Jean Monnet PhD Summer School on “Security and Justice in Europe” (Scotland, Dundee).  
 2015 - Winter School on “Conflict Mediation” at Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).  
 2014 - Summer School on “Peace Studies” at Oslo University Summer School, (Norway).

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2013 - Methods of peaceful conflict resolution, mediation, conflict analysis and leadership in crisis (Potsdam University of Applied Sciences) in Tbilisi (Georgia) and Yerevan (Armenia).  
2013 – 600-year anniversary scholarship (St Andrews, Scotland).  
2012- NATO Winter School in Baku (Azerbaijan).

#### INVITED TALKS and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

2023 – Chechen lessons for the World. Keck Center (Claremont McKenna College).  
2023 - Foreign Fighters in the Former Soviet Union (Ottawa, Canada)  
2023 – Workshop for Bolashak Fellows. *How to write a book proposal* (GWU).  
2023 - Decolonization and recolonization of Chechnya. Lessons taught and not learned. (Crimea Global. Understanding Ukraine through the South. Kyiv.)  
2023 - Russia's War Strategy: What Chechnya Suggests for Ukraine (MPSA, Chicago).  
2022 - War in Ukraine and Russian memory politics (Miami University, Oxford, Ohio).  
2022 - Russo-Chechen conflict in a nutshell (Colgate University, NY).  
2022 - Clash of collective memories in post-war Chechnya. (ASN virtual, NY).  
2022 - Integration of Chechen migrants in Europe reasons of success and failure. (MPSA, Chicago).  
2022 - Russia's wars in Chechnya and Ukraine (PONARS, Washington DC).  
2021 - Russian domestic politics and Chechnya (Georgian Foundation of Strategic Studies, Tbilisi).  
2021 - Religious self-legitimation of autocracies (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs).  
2021 - Second generation of Chechens in Europe and their choices of identity (Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, Estonia).  
2020 - Autocratic legitimization and collective memory (Luxembourg University).  
2019 - Image as a tool of power legitimization: the case of Ramzan Kadyrov (ASIAC, Rome).  
2019 - The consequences of migration: how religious and ethnic identities interact (Post-soviet Diaspora(s) in Western Europe, 1991/2019, Lisbon).  
2019 - Chechen official discourse today: what the Chechens should remember? (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs).  
2019 - Chechen perceptions of Russia: implications for the conflict resolution (Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, Estonia).  
2019 - Islam in service of the state: Chechen case (The European Association for the Study of Religions, Tartu, Estonia).  
2019 - Thinking possibilities of peace in the Caucasus (University of St Andrews).

#### SERVICE, EDITORIAL & REVIEWER COMMITMENTS

- October 2023 – Presenter at the workshop for Central Asian scholars. “How to write a book proposal” (GWU).
- Since 2023 -CESS (Central Eurasian Studies Society) Communications Committee.
- Since 2018 - Associate Editor of The Forum for EthnoGeoPolitics <https://www.ethnogeopolitics.org/about-us/>
- Since 2018 -Reviewer for the journal “Ethnicities”, “Nationalities Papers”, “Central Asian Survey”, “Democratization”, “Communist and Post-Communist Studies”, “Problems of Post-Communism” “Ethnopolitics”, “Europe-Asia Studies”, “Journal of Economy Culture and Society”, “All Azimuth: A Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace”.
- Since 2018 - Coach of self-defence and Martial Arts.

#### NON-ACADEMIC (PAST) EMPLOYMENT

- 2011 – 2013. **Project assistant / project manager**, NGO “Caucasian House” (Tbilisi, Georgia).
- 2003 – 2011. **Journalist, columnist, reporter, international news editor** at newspapers “Lithuanian News”, “The Day of Vilnius”, and media portal Delfi.lt (Vilnius, Lithuania).
- 2006 – 2008. **Analyst, author** at The Centre of Strategic Studies (Vilnius, Lithuania).

#### STUDENT ADVISING (University of St. Andrews)

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### **Undergraduate thesis advising**

- Ms. Anastasia Croy. *To what extent has the reconciliation agenda in Rwanda delivered justice?*
- Mr. Jake Eisenecker. *How can the Belt and Road Initiative and technological innovations explain trends in Uyghur persecution?*
- Ms. Kary Stevick. *The Role of Securitization in Diversionary Conflict.*
- Mr. Max Moorhouse. *Fragile Selves and Threatening Others - Charting Attempts to Reclaim Masculinity Through Violence.*
- Ms. Oona Singh. *The Unsecular, The Arbitrary, and The Constitution of India: Is the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 constitutional?*
- Ms. Katya Vaseva. *Freedom of media in Russia under President Putin.*

### **Graduate thesis advising**

- Ms. Anhelina Maiseyenka. *Malorossia or Ukraine Belorussia or Belarus: the phenomenon of the "Russian world" in action.*
- Mr. Cyrus Nabili. *To what extent can economic sanctions be effective in altering the behaviour of hostile states.*
- Mr. Arkadiy Osovtskov. *Russian subversion in the Visegrad group and the response to it.*
- Mr. David Dennis. *Democratic Careening in the Solomon Islands.*

### **LANGUAGES**

- Russian (mother tongue level), Lithuanian (excellent), Chechen (excellent), Italian (intermediate).

### **PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Black belt (Nidan) in Ju-Jitsu and (Shodan) in Aikido. Coaching in Martial Arts experience.

### **REFERENCES**

- Professor Yoshiko Herrera (University of Wisconsin-Madison. Department of Political Science. Mentor); phone: +1 (608) 263-2241; email: [yherrera@wisc.edu](mailto:yherrera@wisc.edu)
- Professor Henry Hale (George Washington University. Elliott School of IR. Mentor); phone: +1 (202) 994-4810; email: [hhale@email.gwu.edu](mailto:hhale@email.gwu.edu)
- Professor Venelin Ganev (Miami University of Ohio, Political Science Department. Mentor); phone: +1 (513) 529-2334; email: [ganevvi@miamioh.edu](mailto:ganevvi@miamioh.edu)
- Professor Rick Fawn (University of St Andrews. School of IR, PhD Supervisor); phone: +44(0)1334 46 2957; email: [rick.fawn@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rick.fawn@st-andrews.ac.uk)