

MARAT ILIYASOV, Ph.D.

AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE US

I am 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 2024 – current. Visiting Assistant Professor (College of the Holy Cross).**
- July 2023 – July 2024. Research Fellow at Global Russia Academy (Elliott School of International Affairs).
- Sept. 2022-Jun 2023. Visiting Assistant Professor (Miami University).
- Sept 2021 – Aug 2022. Post-doctoral researcher at Wisconsin Russia Project (Wisconsin-Madison).
- Dec 2018 – Sept 2022. Researcher at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania.
- Sept 2019- Sept 2020. Associate Lecturer (University of St. Andrews, School of IR).
- Sept 2014 – Aug 2018. Teaching Assistant (University of St. Andrews, School of IR).
- Sept 2017 – Aug 2018. Teaching Assistant (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

Eurasian politics and society, comparative authoritarianism, religious radicalization, governance of religions, political violence and demography, collective identity and memory.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Procreation for the sake of the Nation. Chechen determination to survive (forthcoming, 2025 Bloomsbury).

Peer-reviewed articles

2024. “The Clash of Collective Memories in Postwar Chechnya.” *Problems of Post-Communism*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2024.2340565> (Impact factor 1.6).

2024. “Russia's war strategies: what Chechnya suggests for Ukraine.” *Post-Soviet Affairs* (with Y. Herrera) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2024.2330882> (Impact factor 2.23).

2023. “Governing religion in Russia and Bulgaria: Between religious diversity and religious nationalism.” *Ethnicities* Special Issue, 1-19 (with L. Yakova and V. Bogdanova). <https://doi.org/10.1177/146879682312094>

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). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09637494.2022.2127591>

2021. “Security and religion – the discursive legitimization of the Chechen authorities.” *Journal of Muslims in Europe* 10, 1-29 (impact factor 0.52). <https://doi.org/10.1163/22117954-bja10029>

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. Most often viewed article's- 13064 views). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2021.631961>

2019. "Chechen Demographic Growth as a Reaction to Conflict: The Views of Chechens." *Europe-Asia Studies*, 71(10), 1705-1733 (impact factor 2.108). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2019.1602593>
2018. "Chechen Ethnic Identity: Assessing the Change from Resistance to Submission." *Middle Eastern Studies* 54, (3), 475-493 (impact factor 0.45). <https://doi.org/10.1080/00263206.2018.1423967>
2017. "Researching Chechen Diaspora in Europe: the Issues Faced." *Inter-Disciplinary Political Science Journal* 3, (1), 201-218. DOI: 10.1285/i20398573v3n1p201
2012. "Instability in the North Caucasus: Reasons, Factors, and Implications." *Caucasus and Globalization* 6, no. 3, 48-58.

Chapters in edited volumes

2024. Nokhchi-chuo. In Ziauddin Sardar (ed.) *Genocide*. Critical Muslim (52), pp. 118-128.
2024. Kadyrov and Chechens in Russia's War with Ukraine. In [Zooming In: Regional Perspectives on Russia](#). PONARS. pp. 31-36.
2024. "The controversies of memory politics in authoritarian Chechnya." In Budryte, D. et al. (eds.) *Handbook on the Memory in Eastern Europe*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003342083>
2024. "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.
2024. "Chechnya." In Hale, H. et al. (eds.) *Developments in Russian Politics*. Textbook. Bloomsbury.
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

2025. "Radicalization in Russia and state's response to it." In *Rethinking Religion and Radicalization*. Hellyer H. and Grossman, M. (eds.) *Handbook on Religious Radicalization*. Bloomsbury. [Rethinking Religion and Radicalization: Terrorism and Violence Twenty Years After 9/11: Michele Grossman: Bloomsbury Academic](#)
2024. "Odds and Peculiarities of Family Life in the Caucasus." In Sipaviciene, Audra, and Andrius Becys (eds.). *Handbook for Social Workers*. Vilnius: Baltijos kopija, 69-94. Second Edition. (In Lithuanian).
2020. Report. Radicalization and Resilience. Case Study: Russia. http://grease.eu.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.eu.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.eu.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. Ilyasov, M. Bonds of Blood? State-Building and Clanship in Chechnya and Ingushetia, by E. Sokirianskaya. *State Crime Journal*, 13(1), 119-121.
2020. From Conquest to Deportation: The North Caucasus under Russian Rule. By Jeronim Perović. *Journal of Muslims in Europe*, 9(1), 131-134. (<https://doi.org/10.1163/22117954-12341414>)

Media contributions and interviews

- 2025, April 22. [Chechen scholar: Russia's cowardly violence in Ukraine is driven by desperation](#) (Kyiv Independent).
- 2025, April 17. [Is a Tribunal for Kadyrov More Than Wishful Thinking?](#) (Central Asia and Caucasus Analyst).
- 2025, March 10. [Military Mobilization in Russia's Regions: From Protests to Submission - PONARS Eurasia](#) (with J-F. Ratelle).
- 2025, February 23. Al Jazeera. Opinion. [The wounds of the 1944 deportation still fester in Chechnya and beyond | Opinions | Al Jazeera](#)
- 2025, January 28. Wilson Center. Webinar. [The North Caucasus and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine | Wilson Center](#)
- 2025, January 24. Kavkaz Realii. Expert Opinion. [Новые "главные террористы"? Братство баталхаджинцев из Ингушетии и убийство генерала Кириллова](#)
- 2024, October 21. Kavkaz Realii. Expert Opinion. ["Почетный гражданин №1": Кадыров против Керимова и поддержка из Дагестана \(kavkazr.com\)](#)
- 2024, October 19. [Podróż bez Paszportu](#). Podcast. Czechenia: Naród w cieniu Moskwy | Kaukaskim Okiem odc. 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plFHp49u3Ec>
- 2024, May 23. Wilson Center. Webinar. [Centering the North Caucasus in Russian Affairs | Wilson Center](#)
- 2024, May 17. Talk Eastern Europe. Podcast [Talk Eastern Europe - Episode 179: Chechnya today and Ramzan Kadyrov's potential successors](#)
- 2024, June 10. Brute Center. Podcast [#BruteCast S07 E22 Chechnya's Troubles with Putin's Russia w/ Dr. Marat Iliyassov \(youtube.com\)](#)
- 2024, May 5. The Spectator. Op-ed. [What's the truth about Ramzan Kadyrov's 'terminal illness'? | The Spectator](#)
- 2024, May 1. Kavkaz Realii. Expert Opinion. [Назад в 1990-е? Очередное вооруженное нападение на полицейских на Северном Кавказе](#)
- 2024, March 10. Al Jazeera. Interview. Čečeni i Inguši pamte: Osam decenija od genocidne deportacije. [Čečeni i Inguši pamte: Osam decenija od genocidne deportacije | Čečenija | Al Jazeera](#)
- 2024, March 5. Kavkaz Realii. Expert Opinion. [Гнев и разочарование. Почему чеченцев возмутила возможность обмена Навального на Красикова](#)
- 2024, February 29. GWU The Central Asia Program. Webinar. Organizer, Moderator. Speaker. [The 80th Anniversary of the Chechen and Ingush Deportation: What is its legacy today? – Central Asia Program](#)
- 2024, February 23. Eurasianet. Op-ed. [Perspectives: Pain inflicted by Stalin's forced deportations during World War II has not healed | Eurasianet](#) (with B. Kassymbekova).
- 2024, February 20. PONARS. Policy Analysis. [Repurposing Tradition to Justify the War in Ukraine – PONARS Eurasia](#) (with V. Umanets, A. Garmazhapova, and Yasin Hakim).
- 2023, December 18. PONARS. Policy Analysis. [Ramzan Kadyrov: Between Putin's Loyal Praetorian Guard and Devoted Servant of the Chechen People - PONARS Eurasia](#) (with Jean-François Ratelle).
- 2023, November 16. IQ. Expert Opinion. [Palaidotos laisvės viltys: Čečėnijoje sukilimo nuotaikų nematyti](#) (In Lithuanian).
- 2023, November 9. The Conversation. Op-ed. [Chechnya's boss and Putin's foot soldier: How Ramzan Kadyrov became such a feared figure in Russia](#) (with Anya Free).
- 2023, November 3. Kavkaz Realii. Expert Opinion. [Травма войны, оторванность от диаспоры: почему молодежь Кавказа в криминальных сводках Франции](#)
- 2023, October 23. OC Media. Podcast. "Chechens trying to find their place in Europe." <https://oc-media.org/podcasts/podcast-chechens-trying-to-find-their-place-in-europe/>
- 2023, October 13. Wilson Center. Op-ed. [Ramzan Kadyrov, Chechen Strategist of Russia's Middle East Policy | Wilson Center](#) (with Anya Free).
- 2023, October 2. Russia Post. Policy Analysis. [What Would Change If Kadyrov Dies? \(russiapost.info\)](#)
- 2023, April 17. Havighurst Center (MU). Policy Analysis. [Why it is important to study memory politics? | The](#)

New Contemporary: Notes from the Havighurst Center

- 2022, December 16. PONARS. Policy Analysis. [The Chechen Footprint During Russian Wartime - PONARS Eurasia](#)
- 2022, April 24. PONARS. Policy Analysis. [Similarities Stain the Kremlin's Warfare on Chechens and Ukrainians - PONARS Eurasia](#) (with Y. Herrera).
- 2022, March 19. PONARS. Policy Analysis. [Moscow's Manipulated Memory Politics and Attack on Ukraine - PONARS Eurasia](#)
- March 24, 2022. DW. Expert Opinion. [Chechen, Tatar Muslims fight for Ukraine – DW – 03/24/2022](#)
- August 9, 2021. GFSIS. Webinar. [Georgian-Chechen Relationships](#)
- 2020, October 19. Open Democracy. Policy Analysis. [Russia's imaginary 'radicals' | openDemocracy](#)
- 2020. September 30. Delfi. Expert Opinion. [Karas, kuris gali tapti itin kruvinas: ar įmanomas Turkijos ir Rusijos susidūrimo scenarijus - Delfi](#) (In Lithuanian).
- 2019, April 17. Osservatorio Balkani e Caucaso. Policy Analysis. Ingushetia fears outbreak of violence. [Ingushetia fears outbreaks of violence / Ingushetia / Areas / Homepage - Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa](#)
- 2019, January 10. Osservatorio Balkani e Caucaso. Policy Analysis. **Chechen demographic rise: reasons and concerns** <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Chechnya/Chechen-demographic-rise-reasons-and-concerns-191886>
- 2018, October 31. Osservatorio Balkani e Caucaso. Policy Analysis. **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

2025. "North Caucasus: Chechen wars, Dagestan and Ingushetia"; "Islam in Russia" In B. Rifkin (ed.) **Advanced Russian Through History**, Second Edition. Georgetown University Press (forthcoming).

2025. **"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).

COURSES TAUGHT

- *Russian language and literature* (Guest Lecturer, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU).
- *Comparative politics* (Miami University, College of the Holy Cross).
- *Politics of Post-Communism* (College of the Holy Cross).
- *Conflicts in Post-Soviet Eurasia* (College of the Holy Cross).
- *Russian foreign policy* (Miami University).
- *Putin's Russia / Russian domestic policy* (Miami University).
- *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 (GWU).
- 2015 – present. Centre for Middle East, Central Asia, and Caucasus (University of St. Andrews)
- 2022-present. Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia/PONARS (GWU)
- 2021-present. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).
- 2022-present. Central Eurasian Studies Association (CESS).

Research visits:

- 2024 and 2021 – Visiting Scholar at Georgian Foundation of Strategic and International Studies.
- 2023 – Visiting Scholar at IOS Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies.
- 2023 – Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (North Carolina University).
- 2022 – Visiting Scholar at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES, GWU).

CONSULTING

- 2023 – current - US Courts - On immigration cases of Chechens, Dagestanis, Ossetians, Meskhetian Turks, etc.
- 2024 - Central Intelligence Agency. (CIA) 1) On discrimination of ethnic and religious minorities in Russia; 2) On political developments in Chechnya. Subcontracted through AMENTUM.
- 2024, 2012- Lithuanian Office of International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migrants from the Caucasus.
- 2024, 2023- US State Department: On war effects in Russia; On Chechnya (politics and society).
- 2012, 2009- Lithuanian Ministry of Domestic Affairs on migrants from the Caucasus.
- 2006-2008 - Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via The Centre of Strategic Studies (think-tank).

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS (selected)

2025 (May-August) – Kennan Fellowship by Kennan Institute (Wilson Centre).

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).

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)

2024 – Demographic growth as an indicator of unresolved conflict. New Voices of Eurasia. GWU.

2024 – Chechnya as a unique **case in Russian Federation**. Command & Staff College, Marine Corps University.

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*).

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY, EDITORIAL & REVIEWER COMMITMENTS

- Since 2023 -CESS (Central Eurasian Studies Society) Communications Committee.
- Since 2018- Associate Editor of The Forum for EthnoGeoPolitics
- 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," Stosunki Międzynarodowe (<https://doi.org/10.21956/stomiedintrelat.19218.r28706>)
- Since 2018 - Coach of self-defense 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)

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 behavior 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 (Sandan) in Ju-Jitsu and (Shodan) in Aikido. Six years of coaching in Martial Arts experience.

REFERENCES

- Professor Denis Kennedy. (College of the Holy Cross. Department of Political Science. Chair); phone: 508-793-3716; email: dkennedy@holycross.edu
- Professor Yoshiko Herrera (University of Wisconsin-Madison. Department of Political Science. Mentor); phone: +1 (608) 263-2241; email: yherrera@wisc.edu
- Professor Henry Hale (George Washington University. Elliott School of IR. Mentor); phone: +1 (202) 994-4810; email: hhale@email.gwu.edu
- Professor Venelin Ganev (Miami University of Ohio, Political Science Department. Mentor); phone: +1 (513) 529-2334; email: ganevvi@miamioh.edu

