

# MARAT ILIYASOV, Ph.D.

A Chechen Scholar of International Relations and Comparative Politics. I focus on Russo-Chechen war 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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e-mail: [marat.ilyasov@email.gwu.edu](mailto:marat.ilyasov@email.gwu.edu) cell: +1 301-712-8141, ORCID: 0000-0003-0703-4716, web <https://marat-ilyasov.github.io/>

## EMPLOYMENT

- July 2023 – Research Fellow at George Washington University. Elliott School of International Relations.
- Sept. 2022-Jun 2023. Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University (Ohio).
- 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

### Peer-reviewed articles

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. 2022 Impact factor 1.45).
2021. “Security and religion – the discursive legitimization of the Chechen authorities.” *Journal of Muslims in Europe* 10, 1-29 (2022 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* (2022 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. (2020 impact factor 2.108)
2018. “Chechen Ethnic Identity: Assessing the Change from Resistance to Submission.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 54, (3), 475-493. (2020 impact factor 0.45)
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

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## 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

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, 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 – PONARS Eurasia](#)
- 2022, April 24 (with Y. Herrera). [Similarities Stain the Kremlin's Warfare on Chechens and Ukrainians - PONARS Eurasia](#)
- 2022, March 19. [Moscow's Manipulated Memory Politics and Attack on Ukraine - PONARS Eurasia](#)
- 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-kruvinas-ar-imanomas-turkijos-ir-rusijos-susidurimo-scenarijus.d?id=85369313&fbclid=IwAR22v91Mo8nqrRvAA9fJgukbCKyl-a78dAEv\\_Z69taBEEMeflyvTLLeI5fM](https://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/karas-kuris-gali-tapti-itin-kruvinas-ar-imanomas-turkijos-ir-rusijos-susidurimo-scenarijus.d?id=85369313&fbclid=IwAR22v91Mo8nqrRvAA9fJgukbCKyl-a78dAEv_Z69taBEEMeflyvTLLeI5fM)
- 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

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2023. "Religion and State in Russia and Bulgaria: ethnic minorities and national identity" (with L. Yakova and V. Bogdanova. Forthcoming in *Ethnicities*).
2023. "Russia's war strategies: what Chechnya suggests for Ukraine" (with Y. Herrera. Under review in *Problems of Post-Communism*).
2023. "Clash of collective memories in post-war Chechnya". (Under review in *Post-Communist Affairs*).
2023. "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. "Radicalization in Russia and state's response to it." In Hellyer H. and Grossman, M. (eds.) *Routledge Handbook on the Religious Radicalization*. Bloomsbury (forthcoming).
2023. "The controversies of memory politics in authoritarian Chechnya." In Budryte, D. et al. (eds.) *Routledge Handbook on the Memory in Eastern Europe*. (forthcoming).
2023. "Chechnya: a unique case for the Russian Federation". In Hale, H. et al. (eds.) *Developments in Russian Politics. Textbook*. Bloomsbury (forthcoming).

## COURSES TAUGHT

- *Comparative politics* (Miami University of Ohio).
- *Russian foreign policy* (Miami University of Ohio).
- *Putin's Russia* (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

- 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 (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 the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEES) North Carolina University (CSEES) [The Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies \(unc.edu\)](#)

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- 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 \(gwu.edu\)](https://www.gwu.edu/~ieres)

## CONSULTING

- 2023 US Court on Chechen immigration cases
- 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)

- 2021 - Kennan Institute (Wilson Centre) J. H. Billington Fellowship alternative candidate.
- 2013 - WRP (Wisconsin Russia Project) post-doctoral grant recipient
- 2015 - 600-year anniversary scholarship (the University of St. Andrews)
- 2014 - Winter School on “Conflict Mediation” at Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- 2015 - Jean Monnet PhD Summer School on “Security and Justice in Europe” (Scotland, Dundee)
- 2014 - Summer School on “Peace Studies” at Oslo University Summer School, (Norway)
- 2014 - Methods of peaceful conflict resolution, mediation, conflict analysis and leadership in crisis (Potsdam University of Applied Sciences) in Tbilisi (Georgia) and Yerevan (Armenia in 2013)
- 2013 - NATO Winter School in Baku (Azerbaijan)

## INVITED TALKS and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

- 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*).
- 2015 - Existential Threat as a Trigger of Population Growth: Understanding Chechen Resilience (*Kent University*).
- 2015 - Putin and Modern Russia (*Stirling University*).
- 2014 - Doing a Reflexive Research (*University of St. Andrews*).
- 2013 - Defining Modern Russia: if it is Empire or Not? (*Tbilisi State University*).

#### SERVICE, EDITORIAL & REVIEWER COMMITMENTS

- 2023 -CESS (Central Eurasian Studies Society) Communications Committee
- 2018 - Associate Editor of The Forum for EthnoGeoPolitics <https://www.ethnogeopolitics.org/about-us/>
- 2018 -Reviewer for the journal "Ethnicities", "Nationalities Papers", "Central Asian Survey", "Communist and Post-Communist Studies", "Problems of Post-Communism" "Ethnopolitics", "Europe-Asia Studies", "Journal of Economy Culture and Society".
- 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**. The Centre of Strategic Studies (Vilnius, Lithuania).

#### STUDENT ADVISING (University of Sta 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 behaviour of hostile states.*
- Mr. Arkadiy Osovtsov, *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 (fluent), Chechen (fluent), 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); phone: +1 (608) 263-2241; email: [yherrera@wisc.edu](mailto:yherrera@wisc.edu)
- Professor Venelin Ganev (Miami University of Ohio, Political Science Department); phone: +1 (513) 529-2334; email: [ganevvi@miamioh.edu](mailto:ganevvi@miamioh.edu)
- Professor Rick Fawn (University of St Andrews. Former PhD Supervisor, School of IR); phone: +44(0)1334 46 2957; email: [rick.fawn@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rick.fawn@st-andrews.ac.uk)