

# 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](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](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>)

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## 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](#)

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### 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 įmanoma 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](mailto:dkennedy@holycross.edu)
- 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;

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