



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**
Victoria

Populism and Authoritarianism: Perspectives from the Global North and South

Panel Discussion

Tuesday 4 March 2025: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Populism and authoritarianism often overlap, but what is their relationship across different global contexts?

While populism centres around the 'people' and the 'corrupt elite', authoritarianism focuses on a governance system where power is concentrated in a single leader or a small group, limiting political freedoms.

How do the Global North and South shape and define these political approaches and dynamics? How do factors such as race, religion and identity intersect to influence these political models?



AIIA Victoria invites you to join an expert panel for a comparative examination of shared trends, regional differences, and the broader impact of populism and authoritarianism on democracy and governance worldwide.

Professor Simon Tormey will offer a theoretical perspective, analysing the key features of populism and authoritarianism and providing a global framework to understand their causes and effects.

Professor Clare Corbould will examine these dynamics in the Global North, addressing how populism and authoritarianism intersect with race, identity, and historical legacies in Western democracies. Her perspective will illustrate the challenges and transformations these forces bring to democratic systems.

Professor Ihsan Yilmaz will provide insights into the Global South, focusing on civilisational populism and the rise of civilisation states, particularly in regions like the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. His analysis will highlight the role of religion and cultural identity in shaping nation-building and authoritarian governance.

(Panellist details overleaf...)

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In-person: AIIA Premium and Young Professionals members free. AIIA Members \$20. Non-Members \$30. Student Non-Members \$10

Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

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Professor Simon Tormey is an expert in politics with a core interest in the decline of political trust globally, the politics of protest against capitalism and for urgent climate change, the rise of populism, and how choices of political leaders and electoral outcomes have gone "against the grain", and the state of democracies. Professor Tormey has authored numerous books including *The End of Representative Politics*, *The Refiguring of Democracy*, and *Populism*. His current research concerns the nature of the increasing crisis confronting democratic societies, the rise of populist and outsider movements and parties, and the impact of ICT and new social media on participation and mobilisation.



Professor Clare Corbould is Associate Head of School (Research) in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University. She is the author of *Becoming African Americans* (Harvard, 2009) and co-editor of *Remembering the Revolution* (Massachusetts, 2013). Professor Corbould is an award-winning scholar of African American history with additional knowledge in the Pacific and Australia. Her work primarily explores the way people use history and memory for political ends. Professor Corbould's current research concerns the memory and legacy of the American Revolution among African Americans.



Ihsan Yilmaz is a Research Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and Chair of Islamic Studies at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia. His research focuses on the intersections of religion, politics, and society, with a particular emphasis on nation-building, citizenship, authoritarianism, and populism in the Global South. He has contributed extensively to the study of civilizational populism and the rise of civilization states, examining the role of religion and identity in shaping political strategies, governance models and international relations. Professor Yilmaz has authored several books, including *Weaponizing Civilizationalism for*

Authoritarianism; Reception of Soft and Sharp Powers, and Religions and the Global Rise of Civilizational Populism. His work provides critical insights into the dynamics of religion-state-society relations emotions and populism, digital technologies, and the global implications of authoritarian populism.