

BIOS OF PARTICIPANTS



Radu Albu-Comănescu has a Ph.D. degree in History and is a Lecturer at the Faculty of European Studies of the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He teaches “EU Governance and Theories of European Integration,” “European and International Negotiations,” and “Cultural Heritage Management.” Fields of research extend to the history of Europe; history of political and religious thinking; cultural, economic and public diplomacy, as well as governance, state-building and networks of power.



Liliana Popescu is Director General of the Romanian Diplomatic Institute and Professor Dr. Habil. at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) Bucharest (formerly Vice-Rector). She holds a Ph.D. in political theory from the University of Manchester. Popescu was Adviser to the Romanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and head of the Policy Planning Unit within the ministry in 1998–1999. She is co-founder and co-editor of the *Romanian Journal of Society and Politics* (since 2001) and is a contributor to *Foreign Policy Romania*. She has been teaching courses on international relations, Russian and Eastern European politics, foreign policy and diplomacy. Her publications are related to European Union’s Eastern neighbourhood, political evolutions in the post-Soviet region, and gender politics. Liliana Popescu has a long history of leading civic and public campaigns in the area of gender equality and diversity acceptance. She founded the Eastern and South-Eastern European Fanel Network of women experts in international relations, ESEE Fanel (<http://eese-fanel.net/>) in 2020.



Adrian-Gabriel Corpădean is an Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He is a specialist in European integration, institutional communication, and European project management. He has managed numerous projects with non-reimbursable funding in areas, such as research, curriculum, development, labor market insertion, and international mobility. He is the

author of over 40 studies. He is a member of the European Commission's expert networks on topics, such as institutional reform and European communication. He holds two doctoral degrees, one obtained in Cluj-Napoca and the other in Paris. He is Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Synergies de Roumanie*. He is a member of three other scientific committees of specialized international publications.



Pamela Ratiu Roussos is currently executive director of the [Ratiu Forum](#), a project run in partnership with the [London School of Economics IDEAS Think Tank](#). Her expertise covers management, event concept, public relations and partnership development. Pamela has 30 years of experience in international management for both the public and private sector, actively supporting sustainable non-profit organizational development in Transylvania. Pamela joined [Ratiu Democracy Centre](#) in

2004 and is currently a Board Member. She has actively supported the partnership with Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in offering the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award to those fighting for democracy around the world. She has also initiated the Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy, a series of lectures that aim to strengthen discussions and visions on democracy, reuniting professionals with diverse backgrounds who share an interest in current challenges facing Balkan nations, with a particular emphasis on Romania. She is also coordinating the sustainability initiatives run by the Ratiu foundations in Romania to support the local community projects of the Ratiu Democracy Centre.



Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Iceland. She has a Ph.D. degree from the University of London. Her research interests include life writing, memory studies, and contemporary literature. She has published widely on these issues including her two books, *Borderlines: Autobiography and Fiction in Postmodern and Life Writing* (2003)

and *Representations of Forgetting in Life Writing and Fiction* (2017). Her most recent work is the edited volume *Iceland-Ireland: Memory, Literature, Culture on the Atlantic Periphery* (2022).



Christopher Coker is Professor of International Relations at LSE and Director of LSE IDEAS. His publications include *The Rise of the Civilizational State* (Polity Press 2019); *Rebooting Clausewitz* (Hurst 2018); *Men at war: what fiction tells us about conflict from The Iliad to Catch 22* (Hurst 2014); *Warrior Geeks: how 21st century technology is changing the way we fight and think about war* (Oxford University Press 2013) and *Barbarous Philosophers: reflections on the nature of war from Heraclitus to Heisenberg* (Columbia

University Press 2010). He has written for *The Times*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Financial Times*, *The Spectator*, *the Independent* and *The Wall St Journal*. He has been a Visiting Fellow at National Institute of Defence Studies (Tokyo); the Rajaratnam School National technological University (Singapore), the Institute for Security Studies (Chulalongkorn University Bangkok) and is a regular lecturer at staff colleges and academies around the world. He is at present Visiting Professor in War Studies at the Swedish National Defence College.



Valur Ingimundarson is Professor of Contemporary History and Chair of the Board of the EDDA Research Center at the University of Iceland. He holds a Ph.D. in History from Columbia University. His written works are on topics such as geopolitics and international history; ; Icelandic foreign and security policy; U.S.-European relations during and the Cold War; fascism, nationalism, and populism; Arctic geopolitics; the politics of justice and memory; and post-conflict politics in the former Yugoslavia. Among his works are: *Liberal Disorder, States of Exception, and Populist Politics* (Routledge 2020); *Iceland's Financial Crisis: The Politics of Blame, Protests, and Reconstruction* (Routledge, 2016); *Nordic Cold War Cultures* (University of Helsinki Press, 2015); and *The Rebellious Ally: Iceland, the United States, and the Politics of Empire, 1945–2006* (Republic of Letters Publishing, 2011). He has been a Visiting Professor/Fellow at London School of Economics – LSE IDEAS, Free University (Berlin), Royal United Services Institute – RUSI (London), Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, and Norwegian Center for International Studies – NUPI (Oslo).



Alexandra Popa is Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors of the Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE), one of the main Romanian think-tanks that specialize in European affairs. With more than 15 years of experience in the NGO sector, she has been coordinating CRPE projects in the fields of agriculture, rural development, the inclusion of vulnerable groups and vocational and technical education (VET) since 2012—both in Bucharest and in CRPE's office in Republic of Moldova.



Jón Ólafsson is Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Iceland. His research interests combine cultural theory and political philosophy. His most recent papers deal with political culture, including dissent and protest action; epistemic democracy, democratic engagement, political agency and democratic constitutional design. He

now leads a research project on Democratic Constitutional Design (2019–2023). From 2010 to 2013, Ólafsson chaired a committee on ethical codes for government ministers, public servants and state employees, and in 2018, he led a working group on trust in government and public service which submitted a report and proposals to the Prime Minister. He is a founding member of Gagnsæi, the Icelandic chapter of Transparency International.



Gylfi Zoega is a Professor of Economics at the University of Iceland and part-time at Birkbeck College, University of London. Since graduating from Columbia University in 1993, he has published papers on the problem of unemployment, economic growth and financial crises. His papers have appeared in the *Journal of*

Applied Econometrics, *The American Economic Review*, *The Economic Journal*, *Economica* and *Oxford Economic Papers*. He has co-edited two volumes with Robert Z. Aliber on financial crises, both published by Palgrave Macmillan. The first is *Preludes to the Icelandic Financial Crisis*, published in 2011, and the second is *The 2008 Global Financial Crisis in Retrospect*, published in 2019. His book *Dynamism*, written with longtime collaborators Edmund Phelps and Hian Teck Hoon, was published by Harvard University Press in 2020. He has also served on the Central Bank of Iceland Monetary Policy Committee since the financial crash of 2008.



Valentin Lazea is the Chief Economist of the National Bank of Romania as well as Chairman. He graduated, in 1982, from the Management Faculty of the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest. Later he attended a one-year post-graduate course in economics at Sussex University, Brighton, as well as courses in banking (Milan) and in financial programming (Washington DC). He joined the National Bank of Romania in 1993, initially as an economist, later becoming head of the monetary policy division. Between 1996 and 2000, he served as a Secretary of State (Deputy Minister) at the Ministry of Finance. Since 2001, he

has been the Chief Economist of the National Bank of Romania. In this capacity, he participates in the formulating of the monetary policy decisions, and in macroeconomic co-ordination with the Ministry of Finance. Since 2010, he also provides the secretariat for the Committee for Preparing the Changeover to the Euro. Besides his current job, Lazea is a founding member of the Romanian Center for Economic Policies (CEROPE) and was the president of the board of TRANSFOND, a company that performs electronic payments for Romanian banks. He has published several research studies and has taught at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest.



Vera Knútsdóttir holds a PhD degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Iceland. She defended her dissertation titled “Spectral Memories of Icelandic Culture: Memory, Identity and the Haunted Imagination in Contemporary Literature and Art” in June 2021. She is currently working on a research project on crash literature by Icelandic women writers. Vera lives and works in Copenhagen.



Marius Ghincea is a doctoral researcher at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. He is also a Research Fellow at the Hertie School of Government, Centre of International Security, in Berlin, a Senior Teaching Assistant at the Johns Hopkins University SAIS, Bologna, and a Course Instructor at EUI's School of Transnational Governance in Florence. His research agenda focuses on the causes of foreign and security policy consensus in liberal democracies. He has expertise on issues related to EU's foreign and

security policy, global political ordering, Black Sea security, and transatlantic relations. He also provides policy-oriented consultancy to various private and public actors.



Kári Hólmur Ragnarsson is Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Iceland where he teaches international law, human rights, and constitutional law. He received his law degree at the University of Iceland and practiced law as partner at Réttur – Aðalsteinsson & Partners in Reykjavík, including in high-profile constitutional

litigation in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. He then went on to complete his LL.M. and doctorate in law at Harvard Law School, where he focused on comparative constitutional law. Among his recent publications are analyses of the Icelandic constitutional reform process with respect to the status of international law and forms of judicial review.