



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Is Putinism Sustainable?

Thursday 19 May 2016

2.00 – 4.00pm, Thai Theatre, New Academic Building
The London School of Economics and Political Science

Russian President Vladimir Putin's confrontational foreign policy continues to impose high costs on his country, contributing to economic decline, continued corruption, and political isolation. A shrinking circle of people around the Kremlin is involved in opaque decision-making while economic and social problems are given less consideration than political and security issues. To what extent is Russia's regressive path sustainable? What is the role of Russian elites both at home and in exile in influencing the policies of the Russian government in the short and medium-term? How do European governments and business communities assess the sustainability of the Putin system? Should we expect a rise in socio-economic and political discontent in the coming months leading up to Russia's fall 2016 parliamentary elections?

To discuss these issues, the LSE International Relations Department will be holding a roundtable panel involving leading experts on Russian domestic and foreign policies including fellows from the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC.

Panellists: Dr Tomila Lankina (Chair), Dr Marie Mendras, Dr Chris Miller, Dr Bryn Rosenfeld, Dr Ulrich Speck (Discussant)

Dr Tomila Lankina is an Associate Professor in the LSE's International Relations Department. She holds a DPhil (PhD) from the University of Oxford (Balliol and St. Antony's Colleges), and she has been a research fellow at Stanford University and at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington, DC. Her recent research has focused on comparative sub-national democracy and authoritarianism; on mass protests; and on historical patterns of human capital and democratic reproduction in Russia and other states. Her current research into protests and political mobilisation in Russia and Ukraine is funded by a British Academy Mid-career Fellowship. Her publications include two books: *Governing the Locals: Local Self-Government and Ethnic Mobilisation in Russia* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006); and *Local Governance in Central and Eastern Europe*, co-authored with Anneke Hudalla and Hellmut Wollmann (Palgrave and University of Oxford St. Antony's Series, 2008).

Dr Marie Mendras is a Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po), and researcher with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris. In 2015-2016 she serves as a Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy and visiting scholar at Georgetown University. She is an Associate Fellow of the

Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House in London. In 2008-2010 she was Professor of Government at the London School of Economics. She has been a consultant for both the French Foreign and Defense Ministries. Her latest book is *Russian Politics: The Paradox of a Weak State*. She received her doctorate from Sciences Po and her MA from Harvard University.

Dr Chris Miller is the Associate Director of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy at Yale University and a Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy. He recently finished a forthcoming book titled *Collapse: The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy*, and is currently working on several new projects examining Russian politics, economics and history. Dr Miller's other research interests include political economy, economic history, and financial history. He has served as a Research Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institute, a visiting researcher at the Carnegie Moscow Centre, a Research Associate at the Brookings Institution, and as a lecturer at the New Economic School in Moscow. He received his PhD and MA from Yale University and his BA in history from Harvard University.

Dr Bryn Rosenfeld is a Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford, and holds a PhD from Princeton University. Her research interests include political behaviour, development and democratisation, protest, post-communist politics, and survey methodology. Her current book project examines how state-led development affects the social bases of support for democratisation. Other projects investigate the determinants of participation in mass post-election demonstrations, how economic downturns affect the popularity of ruling parties under competitive authoritarianism, and Russian media coverage of the economy. Previously, Dr Rosenfeld worked for the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Opinion Research. She received the Department's Meritorious and Superior Honour Awards for her analysis of Russian public opinion.

Dr Ulrich Speck is a Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy. His work is focused on German and EU foreign policy, the EU's relations with Eastern Europe and Russia, and transatlantic relations. From September 2013 to August 2015 Speck was a Visiting Scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels and a foreign policy columnist for the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. Prior to that he was an Associate at FRIDE, Madrid, and the editor of the *Global Europe Morning Brief*, a subscriber-only newsletter on EU foreign policy. Speck holds a PhD in modern history from the University of Frankfurt. His articles have been published by the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, the *Moscow Times*, CNN.com, and elsewhere.