



WEISER CENTER FOR EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

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From the Director

The 2019-20 academic year was a year unlike any that came before. From September through early March, WCED offered its characteristically diverse global programming on pressing questions of democracy and dictatorship. The busiest and most exciting part of our year was scheduled for mid-March through mid-May: right when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down our university and torpedoed our spring programs. Nevertheless, there is so much WCED accomplished in 2019-20 that we are proud of. We are poised in 2020-21 to return full-speed in the area of programming, while our other two areas—fellowships and publications—continue to be more active and robust than ever.

The autumn and winter programming covered the entire map. We hosted expert roundtables on the themes of Bolsonaro's Brazil, authoritarian crisis and adaptation, and perhaps the biggest question currently haunting the democratic world: is democracy promotion dead? Our lecture series included talks by outside experts on the middle-income trap in Southeast Asia, proxy wars in the Middle East after the Arab Spring, the historical roots and evolution of democracy in India, and the connection between economic development and democratization in South Korea. WCED launched a new series, "Colloquium on Authoritarianism," which met on seven occasions to give U-M scholars from a wide range of departments and programs the opportunity to present and receive timely feedback on their cutting-edge works in progress.

Our multiyear WCED Postdoctoral Fellowship program remains strong, and is now complemented by a new program for WCED faculty, students, and visiting associates. This has given WCED a sense of internal community that we have been eager to build and are excited to continue. Our four postdocs conduct research on areas ranging from the local roots of Russian authoritarianism, to the historical purging of pro-democracy soldiers after Brazil's coup, to the importance of social solidarity in China's

peasant and veterans' movements, to the unintended effects of outside support for Syrian democratization protests in paving a tragic trail to the new millennium's most brutal civil war thus far. WCED Visiting Associates discussed their expertise on Brazilian foreign policy, Turkish democratic backsliding, Maoist nostalgia in China, Islamic law in Malaysia, and populist support among mining communities in Latin America.

It is in our third area, publications, where our strides forward were perhaps the greatest in 2019-20. Our WCED Book Series at U-M Press entered its second year and added new and forthcoming titles on economic shocks and authoritarian durability in countries ranging from Iran to Russia to China, Ukrainian corruption, and the politics of social media and protest in Thailand. WCED also assumed leadership over the official newsletter of the American Political Science Association's newly renamed organized section on Democracy & Autocracy. Our first two issues, "Is Democracy Promotion Dead?" (February 2020) and "Economic Shocks and Authoritarian Stability" (June 2020), drew directly from WCED's public programming, and offered vital new insights for the policy community in addition to their academic impact. We will have much more exciting material to report from both our growing WCED Book Series and our ongoing, triannual Democracy & Autocracy newsletter in 2020-21.

Despite rising threats and hardships to the health of the world's democracies—and now, with the novel coronavirus, to the health of all the world's citizens—WCED remains steadfastly committed to its role as a leading interdisciplinary center on emerging democracies, enduring dictatorships, and everything that lies in between. Our work may have been interrupted, but our mission remains unaltered.

Dan Slater

Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of Emerging Democracies
WCED Director



Emerging Democracies Postdoctoral Fellows

Awarded to postdoctoral scholars in support of research on the broad historical, political, economic, and societal conditions under which democracies emerge—and autocracies endure. Fellows focus on their own research, participate in WCED workshops and events, and present one public lecture during their fellowship, while in residence at U-M.

Matthew Cebul (2019-21), PhD Political Science, Yale University. "Repression and Rebellion in the Shadow of Foreign Intervention."

Marília Corrêa (2019-21), PhD History, University of Illinois. "Military Outcasts: Expelled Servicemen, Dictatorship, Gender, and Trauma in Brazil."

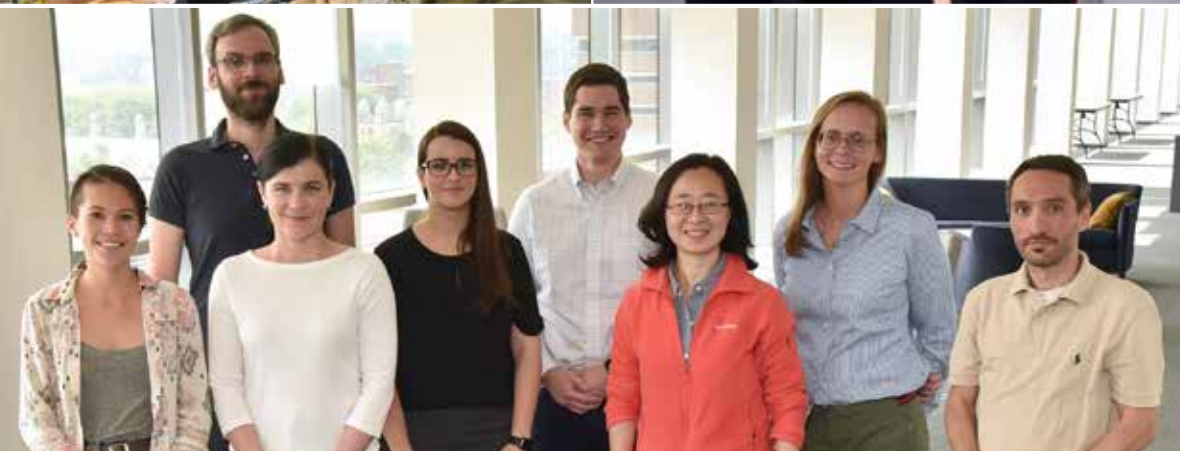
Natalia Forrat (2018-20), PhD Sociology, Northwestern University. "Cooperate or Resist? State-Society Relations and Authoritarianism in Russia and Beyond."

Jundai Liu (2019-21), PhD Sociology, Harvard University. "Claiming Legitimacy and Building Solidarity: Chinese Veterans' Political Participation under Regime Control."

WCED Graduate Student Fellows

Awarded to U-M students who focus their work around the theme of emerging democracies past or present.

Katherine Downs, MA MIRS-Middle Eastern & North African Studies/MSW Social Work. Trauma resulting from colonialist policies, attitudes, and doctrines in the Middle East, particularly among Palestinian women.



(clockwise from top left) Emerging Democracies Graduate Workshop; **Sasha de Vogel**; **Katherine Downs**, **Christian Pfengler**, **Natalia Forrat**, **Marília Corrêa**, **Matthew Cebul**, **Jundai Liu**, **Hilary Izatt**, **Cem Emrence**

Cem Emrence, PhD Political Science. Civilian political preferences in conflict settings, political consequences of emergency rule, and determinants of informing during wartime.

Hilary Izatt, PhD Political Science. Elections in authoritarian regimes, democratic transitions, and impacts of electoral geography on voters and other stakeholders.

Ethan Johnston, PhD Sociology. Culture and politics, influence of cultural cognition on solidarity and division in the public sphere.

Christian Pfengler, LLM Law. Comparative constitutional law, role of committees in parliamentary rule.

Berkay Uluc, PhD Comparative Literature. Relationship between aesthetics and politics, Middle Eastern literatures, and critical theory.

WCED Student Associates

WCED Student Associates are past graduate fellows invited to continue as mentors for the incoming cohort and actively contribute to the WCED community of scholars.

Jeremy Boo, PhD Political Science. **Adelina Pinzaru**, PhD Asian Languages and Cultures.

WCED Visiting Associates

WCED Visiting Associates are invited to be part of the center's academic community during their time at U-M. This diverse group of interdisciplinary scholars come from different regions of the world and offer invaluable expertise on emerging democracy and authoritarianism in their home countries and beyond. They actively participate in WCED events, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Guilherme Casarões, Fundação Getúlio Vargas São Paulo Business School. **Iza Ding**, University of Pittsburgh. **Veronica Hurtado**, University of British Columbia. **Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani**, National University of Singapore. **Şebnem Yardımcı-Geyikçi**, Hacettepe University.

WCED Faculty Grants

Awarded to U-M faculty for research projects that address themes related to democracy, broadly understood.

Allen Hicken, Political Science, and **Laura Rozek**, Public Health. "A Multinational Study of Social Distancing Policies on Societal Wellbeing during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Pauline Jones, Political Science. "The Variety of Populists: Implications for Regime Stability and Change."

Yuki Shiraito, Political Science. "Autocratic Legislative Speeches: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan."

Yun Zhou, Sociology, and **Jundai Liu**, WCED. "Shockwaves through the Chinese Bureaucracy? Authoritarian Governance in the Time of COVID-19."

William Zimmerman, Political Science. "Russian Elite Attitudes to Foreign Policy."

WCED Graduate Student Research Grants

Awarded to U-M graduate students for research projects related to authoritarianism and democracy, broadly understood.

Sahin Acikgoz, PhD Comparative Literature. "Authoritarianism and Its Ontological Others in Turkey."

James Allen IV, PhD Public Policy & Economics, and **Jon Denton-Schneider**, PhD Economics. "Blood Taxes: Colonial Conscription and the Political Economy of French West Africa."

Mekarem Eljamal, MA Middle Eastern & North African Studies/MURP Urban & Regional Planning. "Evolution of Urban Land Use Policy in Haifa."

Simeneh Gebremariam, PhD Anthropology. "Kinet: Music and Politics from the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution to (Post) Socialist Present."

Deanna Kolberg, PhD Political Science. "Local Leaders as Foot Soldiers for the Party and the State: How Does Brokerage Influence Grassroots Governance?" and "Accountable Governance in Contested Communities."

Sadiyah Malcolm, PhD Sociology. "'Contested Rituals of Black Girlhood': Power, Violence, and the Transition to Adulthood in Downtown Kingston."

Promise McEntire, PhD Anthropology. "Gender Equity, Multilingualism, and Technologies of Persuasion in Burkina Faso."

Sauda Nabukenya, PhD History. "Pursuing Justice and Liberties: The High Court and Uganda's Legal History, ca. 1900–1980."

Thomas O'Mealia, PhD Political Science. "The Origin and Evolution of the Security Apparatus."

Roya Talibova, PhD Political Science. "Why Fight? Causes and Consequences of Joining a Tyrant's Army."

Michael Thompson-Brusstar, PhD Political Science. "Supervising the State: Authoritarian Anticorruption in China."

Htet Thiha Zaw, PhD Political Science. "Repression in Time: Learning from Troop Movements of the British Empire, 1881–1950."



(left to right) Matthew Cebul, Şebnem Yardımcı-Geyikçi

WCED EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Sep 10 WCED Lecture. "The Politics of the Middle-Income Trap." **Richard Doner**, Emory University.

Sep 12 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. "Red Memory: Nostalgia, Trauma, and Public Opinion in Contemporary China." **Jeff Javed**, U-M; **Iza Ding**, University of Pittsburgh and WCED Visiting Associate.

Sep 13-14 Conference. "Austerity and Anti-Austerity beyond Capitalism." Co-sponsors: Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, CES, CREES, others.

Sep 23 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. "Red Austerity: Authoritarianism and Shock Therapy in 1980s Romania." **Cristian Capotescu**, U-M.

Sep 26 WCED Lecture. "Battle Scars: The Middle East after the Arab Uprisings." **Marc Lynch**, George Washington University. Co-sponsors: CMENAS, DISC, GISC.



(clockwise from top left) Tom Flores, Jennifer Raymond Dresden, Erica Frantz, Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz; David Waldner, Dan Slater; Benjamin Lessing, Guilherme Casarões, Marília Corrêa, Robert Jansen

OCTOBER

Oct 2 WCED Panel. *"Brazil under Bolsonaro: What Is Emerging? What Is Submerging?"* Moderator: **Robert Jansen**, U-M. Presenters: **Guilherme Casarões**, Fundação Getúlio Vargas São Paulo Business School and WCED Visiting Associate; **Marília Corrêa**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow; **Benjamin Lessing**, University of Chicago. Co-sponsors: Brazil Initiative, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies.

Oct 22 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"The Authoritarian Curse: The Effects of Resource Wealth on Political Networks and Democratic Attitudes."* **Veronica Hurtado**, University of British Columbia and WCED Visiting Associate.

Oct 28 WCED Lecture. *"Hegemon Risen."* **Michael Hickok**, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Oct 30 WCED Lecture. *"The Authoritarian Origins of Dominant Parties in Democracies: Lessons from India."* **Adam Ziegfeld**, Temple University. Co-sponsor: Center for South Asian Studies.

NOVEMBER

Nov 7 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"Entrenching Autocracy in Thailand: The Constitution, The Crown, and the 2019 Election."* **Allen Hicken**, U-M.

Nov 12 WCED Panel. *"Authoritarian Crisis and Adaptation."* Moderator: **Dan Slater**, WCED director. Panelists: **Andrea Kendall-Taylor**, Center for a New American Security; **Anne Pitcher**, U-M; **Victor Shih**, University of California San Diego.

Nov 19 WCED Lecture. *"Informal Cooperation or Failure to Cooperate? Explaining Low Levels of Formal Cooperation between Certain Authoritarian States."* **Barbara Koremenos**, U-M.

Nov 25 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"Democracy through Strength: Asia's Development and Democratization."* **Dan Slater**, WCED Director.

JANUARY

Jan 14 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"Supervisor and Struggle in 1950s China."* **Michael Thompson-Brusstar**, U-M.

FEBRUARY

Feb 4 WCED Panel. *"Is Democracy Promotion Dead?"* Moderator: **Dan Slater**, WCED Director. Panelists: **Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz**, Michigan State University; **Jennifer Raymond Dresden**, Georgetown University; **Thomas Flores**, George Mason University; **Erica Frantz**, Michigan State University; **David Waldner**, University of Virginia.

Feb 11 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"Making Gender, Breaking Soldiers: Expelled Servicemen, Military Identity, and Dictatorship in Brazil, 1964-1985."* **Marília Corrêa**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow.

Feb 25 WCED Colloquium on Authoritarianism. *"Industrial Policy and Labor Movement in South Korea under Authoritarian Rule."* **Joan Cho**, Wesleyan University.

MARCH

Mar 12 WCED Panel. *"Democratic Survival in the Muslim World."* Moderator: **Mark Tessler**, U-M. Panelists: **Jaimie Bleck**, University of Notre Dame; **Pauline Jones**, U-M; **Lily Zubaidah Rahim**, Georgetown University; **Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani**, National University of Singapore and WCED Visiting Associate; **Şebnem Yardımcı-Geyikçi**, WCED Visiting Associate and Fulbright Visiting Scholar, U-M. Co-sponsors: ASC, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, CMENAS, DISC, GISC.

Mar 17 WCED Lecture. *"Ethnic Bias in Judicial Decision-making: Evidence from the Kenyan Appellate Courts."* **Fiona Shen-Bayh**, College of William and Mary. Co-sponsor: ASC.

Mar 24 WCED Book Discussion. *"Putin v. the People: The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia."* Authors: **Samuel A. Greene**, King's College London; **Graeme B. Robertson**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Discussants: **Natalia Forrat**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow; **Ronald G. Suny**, U-M. Co-sponsor: CREES.

Mar 27 Lecture. *"The Price of Democracy."* **Julia Cagé**, Paris Institute of Political Studies. Discussant: **Charlotte Cavallé**, U-M. Co-sponsors: Center for Inequality Dynamics, Weiser Center for Europe & Eurasia

APRIL

Apr 7 WCED Lecture. *"Starting, Stopping, and Restarting State Repression: An Analysis of Spells."* **Christian Davenport**, U-M.

Apr 14 WCED Lecture. *"Populism, Nationalism, and the Rise of Radical Politics in Europe and the United States."* **Bart Bonikowski**, Harvard University. Co-sponsor: CES.

May 8-9 WCED Conference. *"Varieties of Communism."* Organizers: **Iza Ding**, University of Pittsburgh and WCED Visiting Associate; **Dan Slater**, WCED Director.

Acronym Key:

ASC - African Studies Center

CES - Center for European Studies

CMENAS - Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies

CREES - Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies

DISC - Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum

GISC - Global Islamic Studies Center



EVENTS CANCELLED — COVID-19



WCED - Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies



(clockwise from top left) Michael Hickok; WCED audience; Victor Shih, Andrea Kendall-Taylor

WCED DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their generous contributions in 2019.

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Gifts of \$1,000,000 and above
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Lorne Craner and Ron Weiser at the Weiser Hall inauguration in 2017. Craner, a founding member of the WCED Policy Board, passed away in July.