

**Expert Conversations:  
Talking about recruitment, radicalization and emerging threats  
28.04.2021.**

**Panel II:  
Current threats and emerging trends**

<b>Time CET</b>	<b>Activity</b>
11:00 – 11:10	Introduction,  Nermina Kuloglija, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)
11:10 – 11:40	<b>Expert Talk I:</b> Michael Colborne, Bellingcat  <b>Topic:</b> The Far-Right and Ukraine  <b>Discussant:</b> Denis Džidić, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)
11:40 – 12:10	<b>Expert talk II:</b> Dr Asya Metodieva, Institute of International Relations  Prague <b>Topic:</b> Syria and Foreign Fighters  <b>Discussant:</b> Prof. dr. Sead Turčalo, Atlantic Initiative
12:10 – 12:40	<b>Expert Talk III:</b> Dr Anton Shekhovtsov, Centre for Democratic Integrity  <b>Topic:</b> Geopolitics of the Far-Right and Russia  <b>Discussant:</b> Prof. dr. Edina Bećirević, Atlantic Initiative
12:40 – 13:00	<b>Moderator and discussant:</b> Nermina Kuloglija, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network  (BIRN)
13:00 – 13:30	Questions and Answers

## About the Moderator



**Nermina Kuloglija** started working as a journalist in 2017. She began her career with the Center for Investigative Reporting in Sarajevo, first as an intern then a journalist, where she mainly focused on researching corruption and organized crime. She holds a master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Sarajevo. For the last year and half, as a member of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network Bosnia and Herzegovina, she has been working on research into extremism, terrorism and corruption. During 2020 she published two sets of research about far-right groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the symbols used by far right groups she found activities of at least three ultra-right-wing groups operating in two cities in BiH - groups whose activities she discovered were banned in Germany and declared terrorist formations in Canada.

## About the Speakers



**Michael Colborne** is a journalist who has written extensively about the radical right. His current work focuses on the far-right in central and eastern Europe, with a special interest in transnational radical right extremism. Michael has written in detail about the far-right in Ukraine, both as a freelance journalist and as a contributing team member at investigative journalism site Bellingcat, where he has monitored and investigated far-right activities in Ukraine as part of the Bellingcat Monitoring Project. Michael's articles about Ukraine's far-right have explored, for example, the Azov movement's international ambitions (Haaretz), neo-Nazis sharing and selling translations online of a radical right extremist terrorist manifesto (Bellingcat), the Azov movement's ideological roots in the French  *Nouvelle Droite* (Foreign Policy) and a Ukraine-based neo-Nazi group of Russian origin (Bellingcat).



University of Oxford. She held the 2018 Sotirov Fellowship at LSE IDEAS and 2018 Re-think CEE Fellowship of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

**Dr Asya Metodieva** is a Researcher at the Institute of International Relations Prague. She holds a PhD from Central European University (CEU), Budapest. Her research focuses on radical movements, polarization and information warfare with a focus on the Western Balkans. She holds an MA in Public Policy from CEU and in International Relations and Security Studies from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2019 she was a visiting PhD Candidate at the



at *ibidem*-Verlag (Germany) and a member of the Editorial Board of *Fascism. Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies*.

**Dr Anton Shekhovtsov** is Director of the Centre for Democratic Integrity (Austria) and Associate Research Fellow at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Sweden). He holds a PhD in Slavonic and East European Studies from University College London. His main area of expertise is the European far right and Russian malign influence in Europe. His most recent book is *Russia and the Western Far Right* (Routledge, 2018). He is the editor of the “Explorations of the Far Right” book series

## About the Discussants



**Denis Džidić** is the Executive Director and Editor for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network Bosnia and Herzegovina. He joined BIRN in August 2008, and after working as a journalist, deputy editor and chief editor for BIRN Bosnia and Herzegovina's flagship website Detektor.ba he was named Executive Director from October 1, 2019. Before BIRN, Denis worked as a journalist for *Oslobodjenje* daily newspaper and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, both in Sarajevo and in the Hague where he reported on transitional justice issues and war crimes. Denis has worked as a journalist since 2006. He graduated from the Journalism Department of the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo, and he holds a master's in international law.



**Dr Sead Turčalo** is an Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo. He teaches Geopolitics, International Security, Energy Security and Conflict Management in International Relations within the first and second cycle of the studies at the Department of Security and Peace Studies and Political Science. He is a co-lecturer in the course Geopolitical Studies of the Contemporary World at the interdisciplinary doctoral study at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, and the doctoral program Global Studies of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies UNSA. He has delivered guest lectures at Sciences Po Paris, Sciences Po Dijon, Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.



**Dr Edina Bećirević** is a Professor of Security Studies at the University of Sarajevo. She is a co-founder of the Atlantic Initiative - Center for Security and Justice Research and has worked as a researcher and consultant for a number of international organizations. She has published extensively on transitional justice, genocide and extremism, and is the author of *Genocide on the Drina River* (Yale University Press, 2014) and *Salafism vs. Moderate Islam* (Atlantic Initiative, 2016). In the past four years, her research has focused on malign foreign influences and reciprocal radicalization. She has written opinion pieces for the Intercept, Euronews, and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Edina studied at the University of Sarajevo, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Central European University. She was also a Postdoctoral Fulbright Fellow at Yale University.