



OÑATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW  
—  
OÑATIKO LEGE-SOZIOLOGIAKO  
NAZIOARTEKO ERAKUNDEA  
—  
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL  
DE SOCIOLOGÍA JURÍDICA DE OÑATI

WORKSHOP ON

# "The Legal Complex and Autocratization: Resistance, Cooperation, and Repair"

4-5 June 2026

**COORDINATORS** **Lisa Hilbink** (University of Minnesota and Aix-Marseille Université)  
**Benjamín García Holgado** (University of Delaware)  
**Yasser Kureshi** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

**MEETING ROOM** [Geolocation of the Historical Archives from the Antia Residence and passing through the Old University building](#)

## Programme

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Arrival  
21:00 Welcome dinner for the participants  
*[Oñatiko Batzokia Jatetxea - Street: Foruen Enparantza, 9]*

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

09:00 - 09:15 **Registration**

09:15 - 09:30 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
**Camilo Umaña**, IISL Scientific Director  
**Leire Kortabarria**, IISL Publications officer  
**Lisa Hilbink, Benjamín García-Holgado and Yasser Kureshi**, coordinators

09:30 - 10:45 **Session 1: Strategies of Autocratic Control of the Legal Complex :  
Variations across Space and Time**  
**Scott Cummings**: "The Autocratic Legal Playbook."

**Ziya Umut TÜrem**: "Legal Violence as Governance: Domestic Lawfare in Autocratic Turkey."

**Moderator**: Yasser Kureshi

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 13:00 **Session 2: Autocratization and the Legal Complex: Dynamic  
Relationships**  
**Roman Zinigrad**: "Beyond Reasonableness: Democratic Administration and the Limits of Constitutional Resistance in Israel."

**Kathryn Hendley**: "Rethinking the Usefulness of the Legal Complex When Studying Lawyers in Authoritarian Settings: The Russian Case."

**David Kosar**: "Judicial Overstay: Meddling with the Tail End of Judicial Career."

**Moderator**: Benjamín García-Holgado



## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

13:00 - 14:30 **Lunch break** [*Cantina Zaporej*]

14:30 - 16:15 **Session 3: Institutional, Social and Cultural Origins of Judicial Resistance, Complicity, and Repair**

**Lisa Hilbink:** “Judicial Repair after Authoritarianism? Advances and Limits in Spain and Chile.”

**Thalia Gerzso:** “Building Resistance from Within: Judicial Culture in Malawi.”

**Egor Lazarev:** “From Uneven Democratization to Pacted Autocratization: How Judicial Autonomy Facilitated the Autocratic Turn in Georgia.”

**Moderator:** Yasser Kureshi

16:15 - 16:45 **Coffee break**

16:45 - 18:30 **Session 4: Judicial Resistance to Democratic Backsliding in Latin America**

**Azul Aguilar (with Marjorie Marona):** “When Courts Resist: The Judiciary and Democratic Backsliding in Comparative Perspective.”

**Laura Gamboa and Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos (with Benjamín García-Holgado):** “Judicial resistance to backsliding: the politics of constitutional balancing in Latin America.”

**Benjamín García-Holgado (with Mayra Ortiz-Ocaña):** “From loyalists to resisters: why do justices defy populist presidents? Insights from the Mexican case (2018-2024).”

**Moderator:** Lisa Hilbink

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

09:30 - 10:45 **Session 1: Perspectives on the Legal Complex and Autocratic Threats in the EU**

**R. Daniel Keleman and Tommaso Pavone:** “Law States and the Paradoxes of Autocratization: Insights from the European Union.”

**Lucia Manzi:** “European prosecutors and corruption investigations against foreign influence: a bulwark against democratic backsliding?.”

**Moderator:** Lisa Hilbink

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee break**



## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### 11:15 - 13:30 **Session 2: Legal Complex Organization and Legal Resistance to Autocratization**

**Alina Maria Ripplinger:** "Legal resistance to autocratization: Actors and legal fields across regime trajectories."

**Fabio Da Sa y Silva (with Luiza Bastos):** "Legal Professional Associations as Political Infrastructures in Brazil."

**Ching-fang Hsu:** "Constitutional Agency and the Fragmentation of the Legal Complex: Reactionary Legislators and Taiwan's Constitutional Paralysis (2024–2025)"

**Yasser Kureshi:** "Managing the Legal Complex: Explaining Judicial Capitulation in Hybrid Regimes."

**Moderator:** Benjamín García-Holgado

13:30 - 15:00 **Lunch break** [*Cantina Zapore*]

### 15:00 - 16:45 **Session 3: The Legal Complex and Civil Society in Rule of Law and Rights Resistance**

**Ankita Pandey:** "Allies in the Legal Complex: Civil Liberties Activism, Fact-Finding, and Resistance in India."

**Katarina Sipulova:** "Role of Judicial Associations in the Rule of Law Resistance."

**György Gajduscsek:** "From Enabling Electoral Autocracy to Catalyzing Rule-of-Law Restoration: The Changing Role of the Hungarian Legal Complex in the common understanding of the rule of law."

**Moderator:** Yasser Kureshi

16:45 - 17:15 **Coffee break**

### 17:15 - 18:30 **Session 4: What Have We Learned and Where Should We Go from Here?**

**All participants:** Closing discussion to take stock of the insights from the two days and to plan for publication