

Geopolitical Studies Conference:

A SURGE OF DISINFORMATION ACROSS AFRICA

Countering authoritarian
narratives and disinformation
in geopolitical hotspots across
Africa.



Charles University
Campus Jinonice, Room 117

Online

27th September
8:30-16:00

REGISTRATION:

<https://forms.gle/BD61WxgcrGv7c4Pc7>



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Agenda



Registration

8:00 - 9:00

Opening Remarks - **Martin Riegl** (Head of Geopolitical Studies, Charles University, Czech Republic)

9:00 - 9:10

Keynote - **Giovanni Faleg** (Advisor, National Cybersecurity Agency, Italy)

9:10 - 9:40

1st Panel Discussion - Strategic Failure in the Sahel - What are the causes of European military failures in the Sahel and Russia's resurgence?

Reflect and analyze on past mistakes, outline Russian tactic and modus operandi, reason for foreign policy shifts in the Sahel. What are Russia's security capabilities? How has the Sahel security situation developed since their emergence as a security supplier.

Moderator:

Jakub Landovský (Executive Director at Aspen Institute Central Europe - Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to NATO 2019-2024)

9:40 - 11:10

Speakers:

Tomáš Petříček (Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2018 and 2021, Czech Republic)

Thomas Mandrup (Assoc. Professor, Stellenbosch University, South Africa - Royal Danish Defence College, Denmark)

Martin Dunaj (Political Advisor to EUTM Mali Commander in 2022, Czech Republic)

Susanne Conrad (Policy Advisor for Rule of Law and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Germany)

Refreshment Break

11:10 - 11:30



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2nd Panel Discussion - Disinformation and democratisation. Russia destined to fail? How to respond to contradictory security paradigms

How Russia strategically capitalized on military withdrawals by Western powers, and short and mid-term effects on Africa-Europe security nexus. What is the long term effect on democratisation for the region.

Moderator:

Bohumil Doboš (Assistant Professor, Charles University, Czech Republic)

11:30 - 13:00

Speakers:

Ivana Karásková (Lead at MapInfluenCE - CHOICE, Association for International Affairs AMO, Czech Republic)

David Sebudubudu (Professor, University of Botswana, Botswana)

Ronan Wordsworth (Research Analyst, Geopolitical Futures, Australia)

Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:00

3rd Panel Discussion - Geopolitical and strategic environment. Navigating the geopolitical landscape and emerging geopolitical frontiers.

Keeping autocratic regimes out: a key strategic objective for democratic African regimes and NATO. What are the best methods of countering harmful narratives of authoritarian regimes?

Moderator:

Pavel Vinkler (Head of Countering Hybrid Interference Unit, Czech Republic)

14:00 - 15:30

Speakers:

Ludovic Terren (Researcher, University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Travis Morris (Professor, Norwich University, United States)

Will Brown (Senior Policy Fellow, Africa Programme - European Council of Foreign Relations, United Kingdom)

Closing remarks - **Martin Riegl** (Head of Geopolitical Studies, Charles University, Czech Republic)

15:30

Refreshment and networking event



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