

## SPIRe seminar series – Spring '24 – Blog Post for SPIRe Website

11 January 2024

With the new year upon us, UCD's School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) is pleased to share details of its Spring seminar series, set to commence on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, and run every Wednesday from 12pm to 1pm throughout the teaching term. The SPIRe seminar series provides a platform for scholars within and beyond UCD to share and discuss the latest research in the fields of politics and international relations. The series for Spring 2024 boasts a lineup that spans a variety of pressing topics, with speakers from a wide range of institutions.

Presenters from UCD include Benjamin Swift, who will launch the Spring series on 31<sup>st</sup> January, discussing 'Democratic Legitimacy in the EU under Conditions of Reasonable Disagreement and of Crisis.' Following on 7<sup>th</sup> February, Chiara Valsangiacomo will present "A Liquid Conception of Democracy," as part of her wider work on normative democratic theory, democratic innovations, political representation, and the ethics of political parties. In March, SPIRe's Jihed Ncib will present on the relationship between economic policy discourse and geographic representation in the UK House of Commons. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Ben Tonra will delve into the complexities of the European Union's Westphalian mirage and its implications for Ireland's security. The series will conclude on 24<sup>th</sup> April with Elifcan Çelebi, who joined SPIRe in January, presenting her work on the resilience of a pension movement in a de-democratizing landscape.

External speakers in the Spring series include Arpita Chakraborty from Dublin City University who will present on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February on the intersections of coloniality, structural racism, and gender in political institutions, with a focus on the experiences of migrant women in Ireland. 21<sup>st</sup> February will welcome Juan Masullo from the University of Leiden, speaking on the topic "Destroying Criminals or Enacting Preferred Behaviours? Public Support for Selective Repression to Fight Crime in Brazil." Dann Naseemullah from King's College London will lead the discussion on 28<sup>th</sup> February, sharing insights from his latest book *Patchwork States: The Historical Roots of Subnational Conflict and Competition in South Asia*. On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Kate Domett from the University of Sheffield, will shed light on the often-hyped topic of data-driven election campaigns. In April, Stephen Hall from the University of Bath, sharing insights from his book, *The Authoritarian International*, offering a new understanding of the dynamics of authoritarianism on the global stage. Our last external speaker of the series, H. Christoph Steinhardt from the University of Vienna will present on 17<sup>th</sup> April with a reassessment of China's 'Trust Crisis.'

The SPIRe seminar series runs until the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The full Spring programme for the series is available at <https://www.ucd.ie/spire/newsandevents/spireseminarseries/>. We look forward to welcoming our speakers and audience for rich and engaging discussions in the months ahead.

**The SPIRe seminar series runs on Wednesdays during teaching term, from 12pm-1pm in F301 Newman Building (SPIRe Boardroom). All welcome. For more information, or to request to join virtually, please contact [Caitriona.Dowd@ucd.ie](mailto:Caitriona.Dowd@ucd.ie)**