

Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy Conference

Monday 13th – Tuesday 14th September 2021

The international Ion Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy conference returns on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th September to Cluj-Napoca and Turda, Romania.

This prestigious two-day event will feature discussions on important topics relating to democracy in the region by internationally renowned speakers from academia and government. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions and to engage with some of the world's leading thinkers on democracy and European identity.

The event will feature keynote speaker Professor Richard Higgott from the Brussels School of Governance, and there will be three panel discussions on the role of journalism and the media in Central Europe, authoritarianism and liberalism, and corruption and the rule of law.

This year we are delighted to announce that the line-up will include:

Professor Richard Higgott, Brussels School of Governance
Professor Christopher Coker, LSE
Professor Janne Haaland Matlary, University of Oslo
Professor Michael Burleigh, LSE
Dr Ivan VeJVoda, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna
Dr Eric Weaver, University of Debrecen
Dr Spyros Economides, LSE
Ms Alison Smale, Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna
Mr John Lloyd, *Financial Times*

More speakers will be announced in due course.

The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy is an annual event held with the purpose of strengthening discussions and visions on democracy. The Dialogues event is a meeting place for diverse professionals who share an interest in current challenges facing Balkan nations, with a particular emphasis on Romania. Previous speakers have included Professor Michael Cox, Professor Michael Clarke and the Rt Hon. Lord David Owen CH FRCP.

This event is jointly organised by the Ratiu Forum, based in Turda, and LSE IDEAS, a foreign policy think tank affiliated with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy conference is scheduled to take place in person, although it will be moved online if the coronavirus situation makes an offline event unsafe.

Nicolae Ratiu, Chairman of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, says: *“We are delighted to this year continue our lecture series with in-person events in Turda and Cluj-Napoca. After adapting The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy to an online format in 2020/21, we once more look forward to reuniting in Transylvania remarkable speakers, stakeholders from academia, policy makers and media representative to participate in fascinating discussions themed on democracy in the Balkan region.”*

Professor Christopher Coker, Director of LSE IDEAS, says: *“We are delighted to return to Cluj-Napoca for the Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy. It is a key fixture on the LSE IDEAS calendar and contributes significantly to trans-European discussions on strengthening liberal democracy in the region. Our partnership with the Ratiu Forum is going from strength to strength and it has been our pleasure to work closely with universities and organisations in Romania.”*

For more information and to book tickets visit: <https://ratiuforum.com/ratiu-dialogues-on-democracy/>

For all media enquiries:

office@ratiuforum.com

Note to editors:

This event is a two-day ticketed, in-person public conference hosted by the Ratiu Forum and LSE IDEAS. It will take place in English on Monday 13th September and Tuesday 14th September 2021 in several locations in Cluj-Napoca and Turda. Registration is essential. Participants may be willing to give interviews on this topic; all interview requests should go to: office@ratiuforum.com.

[Ratiu Forum](#) is a joint initiative by the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, the Ratiu Democracy Centre and the London School of Economics IDEAS Think Tank. Romania and the Balkan region are priority areas of interest for the Ratiu Forum.

[LSE IDEAS](#) is the London School of Economics and Political Sciences' foreign policy think tank, ranked in 2020 the world's number 1 university-affiliated think tank.

[The Central and South-East Europe Programme](#) (CSEEP) at LSE IDEAS is an academic hub promoting dialogue and cooperation on Central and South-East European studies which is partnered with the Ratiu Forum NGO (Romania), the University of Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland).

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