

Envisioning the future: democracy, governance, and the politics of tomorrow

15 September 2025, 16:00-18:00
Eurac Research conference hall



The future is not merely something that happens; it is a contested political idea that shapes our present decisions and the world we build for generations to come. This discussion brings together the perspectives of two influential political theorists who have recently contributed to the debate on future-related discussions for envisioning political projects, (re-)shaping policies, and democratic legitimacy.

Jonathan White, author of the book *In the Long Run: The Future as a Political Idea* (Profile Books 2024), and Jan Zielonka, author of *The Lost Future: And How to Reclaim It* (Yale University Press 2023) will engage in a discussion to explore our collective relationship with the future, the democratic challenges born of short-termism, the risks associated to the management of ecological, technological, and geopolitical crises, and the possibilities for reclaiming democratic agency in uncertain times.



Jonathan White is Professor of Politics and Deputy Head of the European Institute at the London School of Economics, where he researches and teaches on democracy, political thought and political theory. Among his recent books are *Politics of Last Resort: Governing by Emergency in the European Union* (Oxford University Press, 2019), and – with Lea Ypi – *The Meaning of Partisanship* (Oxford University Press, 2016). He was awarded the 2017 British Academy Brian Barry Prize for excellence in political science.



Jan Zielonka is Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Venice Ca' Foscari and Emeritus Professor at the University of Oxford. Author of many books and articles on European political dynamics – among his recent publication, *Counter-Revolution. Liberal Europe in Retreat*, (Oxford University Press, 2018) – he has a regular column in *Rzeczpospolita* and *Social Europe*, and he also writes for *Die Zeit*, *NewStatesman*, *NRC Handelsblad*, and *Diário de Notícias*.

16:00	Introduction Elisa Piras , Center for Advanced Studies, Eurac Research
16:15-16:45	Jonathan White , Professor of Politics and Deputy Head of the European Institute at the London School of Economics
16:45-17:15	Jan Zielonka , Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Venice Ca' Foscari and Emeritus Professor at the University of Oxford
17:15-18:00	Discussion and Q&A <i>Moderation:</i> Elisa Piras , Center for Advanced Studies, Eurac Research
18:00	Conclusion and aperitivo

The event will be held in English without simultaneous translation.

Please confirm your participation by 13 September 2025 using the following link:

<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/ITLR>

Organization

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