

Constitutionalism and Populism: Challenges for Democracy and the Judiciary – The Polish Perspective

21-22 May 2026

Thursday, 21 May

14:30-14:45

Opening and presentation of the JUDIPOP Research Project

14:45-16:30

The Nature and Roots of Populism in Poland

Chair: Joan Solanes Mullor (Pompeu Fabra University)

- Michał Stambulski (Erasmus University Rotterdam): **What is Constitutional Populism?**
- Agnieszka Bień-Kacała (University of Szczecin): **Constitutionalism, Populism and Manipulation**
- Adam Czarnota (University of New South Wales, Sydney): **Unfinished Revolution, Restrain Democracy and Need for Constitutional Corrections**

Discussion

16:30-17:00

Coffee break

17:00-18:30

The Impact of Institutional Responses to Populism

Chair: Aida Torres Pérez (Pompeu Fabra University)

- Jarosław Gwizdak (Institute for Law and Society - INPRIS): **Polish Courts vs. Populists and Populists vs. Polish Courts**
- Barbara Grabowska-Moroz (Central European University, Budapest): **Judicial Independence before the ECtHR - Actions in Strasbourg and Domestic Reactions**
- Agnieszka Frąckowiak-Adamska and Maciej Gajos (University of Wrocław): **A Two-Way Street: the EU and Populism in a Feedback Loop**

Discussion

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Friday 22 May

09:30 Coffee break

10.00-12:00 Restoring the Rule of Law in Times of Populism

Chair: Jorge Roa Roa (Pompeu Fabra University)

- Wojciech Sadurski (online) (University of Sydney Law School and Centre for Europe, University of Warsaw): **Rule of Law, Legalism, and Restorative Constitutionalism**
- Michał Ziólkowski (Kozminski University): **Restoring Rule of Law with Respect to the Rule of Law**
- Maciej Pichlak (University of Wrocław) and Wojciech Zomerski (European University Institute and University of Wrocław): **Beyond the Courts: Restoring the Rule of Law through Strengthening Democracy**

Discussion