

#asen2026

Nationalism

Democracy

& Freedom

21-23 April, Edinburgh

Some notes:

All events take place at the Old Medical School: Teviot Street, Edinburgh EH8 9AG

Registration will be clearly signposted on arrival.

Plenaries and lunchtime events are in the main theatre.

For panels, the number indicates the room (for example, A2 is Room 2, C5 is Room 5).

Room 0 is the lecture theatre where plenaries take place.

Tuesday 21 April

Time	Event
08:30	Registration opens
09:30	Conference welcome
09:40	Plenary 1 From Global Comparison to Global Phenomenon: John Breuilly's Contribution to Nationalism Studies (Eric Storm, Umut Özkırımlı, and Mariana Kriel)
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Panel sessions A A1 Nation-Making in Contemporary Azerbaijan A2 Aspects of Education 1 A3 Czechs, Serbs, and Feminism A4 Taiwan, Japan and Democracy A5 National Communication A6 Diverse Democratic Discourses
13:00	Lunch
14:15	Panel sessions B B1 Book Panel: <i>The Politics of Domination: Taking, Keeping, and Losing Control over Other Peoples</i> by John McGarry B2 Aspects of Education 2 B3 Scotland: Then and Now B4 Azerbaijan and Citizenship B5 Diverse Digital Dimensions B6 Greece and Macedonia
15:45	Coffee break
16:15	Panel sessions C C1 Book panel: <i>Nationalism: A World History</i> by Eric Storm C2 Authoritarianism C3 Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa C4 Contested National, Legal and Societal Spaces C5 Indian Developments C6 Kin-States
18:00	Anthony Smith Lecture Jonathan Hearn: Left, Right, & Centre: national political authority and its symbolisation
	Reception

Wednesday 22 April

Time	Event
09:30	Panel sessions D D1 Constructing the Nation in Diverse Democracies D2 Permutations of Religion 1 D3 Theory and Philosophy D4 Imagining European Nationalisms D5 Israeli and Palestinian Identities D6 Ethnic Minorities and Ethnic Conflict
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Plenary 2 David Miller: Can nationalism be democratic?
13:00	Lunch A launch for Siniša Malešević's new book, <i>Nationalism as a Way of Life: The Rise and Transformation of Modern Subjectivities</i> , will take place in the main lecture theatre from 13:10 to 13:30.
14:15	Panel sessions E E1 Book panel: <i>Nationalism as a Way of Life: The Rise and Transformation of Modern Subjectivities</i> by Siniša Malešević E2 Permutations of Religion 2 E3 The Basque Country E4 China and Its Relations E5 Foucault and National Discourses E6 Russian Influences
15:45	Coffee break
16:15	Panel sessions F F0 AI in Nationalism Studies F1 Post-Soviet Perspectives F2 Aftermath of WWI F3 Language and Literary Figures F4 Angles on Kosovo F5 Patriotism, State, and Political Imagination F6 Perspectives on Youth
19:00	Conference dinner

Thursday 23 April

Time	Event
09:30	Panel sessions G G1 National Honour, Digital Nationalism, and Cross-Strait Identity Politics in Xi-era China G2 Ukraine and Russia G3 Variations on National Identity

Time	Event
	G4 Polish Nationalisms G5 Romania and Moldova G6 Everyday Aspects of Nationalism
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Panel sessions H H1 Book Panel: <i>The Concept of Identity in Iran: Religion, National Disintegration, and Radicalism in Post-Revolutionary Iran</i> by Reza Talebi H2 Nationalism and Emotion H3 Ukraine at War H4 Nationalisms in Canada H5 Minorities, Territories, and Emigres H6 Dimensions of the USA
13:00	Lunch
14:15	Plenary 3 Eric Taylor Woods and Robert Schertzer: Nationalism, Polarization, and the Unravelling of Liberal Democracy
	Conference close

Tuesday April 21

9:40 – 11:00 Plenary

From Global Comparison to Global Phenomenon: John Breuilly's Contribution to Nationalism Studies

Participants: Eric Storm, Umut Özkırmı, and Mariana Kriel

11:30 – 13:00 Panels A

A1 – Nation-Making in Contemporary Azerbaijan: Political Hegemonies, Diasporic Mobilizations, and Cultural Reimaginings

- Rethinking Nationalism in Azerbaijani Politics: Hegemonic and Alternative Discourses – Mirkamran Hüseyinli
- Decolonising Musical Heritage in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan: Towards an Anthropology of Musical Nationalism – Aneta Strzemżalska
- Post-War Identity Transformation: Azerbaijani Communities in Georgia After the Second Karabakh War – Murad Guliyev

A2 – Aspects of Education I

- A “liberal” education? – Iman Shaikh
- Schools as Sites of National Narration: A Critical Discourse Analysis of EDI in Quebec – Lerona Dana Lewis
- Translating National Anxiety into Pedagogical Practice – Kornelija Čepytė-Eivė

A3 – Czechs, Serbs, and Feminism

- Between the National Flag and the Feminist Banner: Female Agency in 2024–2026 Student Protests in Serbia – Danica Trifunjagić, Daniela Simon
- On the Responsibility of Women in the Life of the Nation: Czech National Feminism in the Second Half of the 19th Century – Eva Bazantova
- Tracing Serbia's Loneliness: Neo-Nationalist Roots of EU Distrust, Security Posture and Democratic Backsliding – Vlatko Sekulovic

A4 – Taiwan, Japan and Democracy

- “Defending the Nation” Across the Border: Digital Nationalism and Authoritarian Interference in Democracy – Yicen Bao
- Constructing National Imagination: Japanese Media during the First Sino-Japanese War and Japanese invasion of Taiwan (1894–1896) – Wei Chung Chen
- Nationalism, Democracy and Freedom: A curious case of the Republic of Formosa – Atsuko Ichijo

A5 – National Communication

- Nation Branding and State Power in Latin America – Cesar Jimenez-Martinez, Pablo Mino
- Sovereignty in the Age of Algorithms: AI, Nationalism, and the Suppression of Palestinian Collective Political Action – Magdalena Pycinska
- From Tolerance to Readiness: Securitizing Democratic Narratives in Dutch Military Communication – Nataliia Vdovychenko

A6 – Diverse Democratic Discourses

- Illiberalism in the Mainstream: Cultural Backlash and the Transformation of Democratic Discourse in Norway – Katrine Fangen
- Defending democracy from Abroad: Catalan Nationalist Exile and its Anti-fascist Struggle, 1936-1977 – Aurora Madaula
- The Poison of Nationalism to Democracy – William Kerr

14:15 – 15:45 Panels B

B1 – Book Panel

- *The Politics of Domination: Taking, Keeping, and Losing Control over Other Peoples* by John McGarry Discussants: Joanne McEvoy, Limor Yehuda, Filip Reyntjens

B2 – Aspects of Education 2

- Tragic Nationalism: A Lacanian-Burkean Study of Russia's Military-Patriotic Education – Hanna Baranchuk
- Teaching Nationalism: Textbook Politics, Collective Memory, and Democratic Freedoms in India – Shreyasi Biswas
- Interrogating Hindu Nationalism: Universities and the Hindu Rashtra – Ichamati Mousamputri

B3 – Scotland: Then and Now

- Museumising Sovereignty: Narrating Freedom and Democracy in the National Museum of Scotland – Andi Haxhiu
- Fortifying the Ancient Constitution: Architecture, Liberty and Anti-Democracy in Pre-Reform Act Scotland – Clarisse Godard Desmarest
- Centre-Periphery Relations and Nationalist Repertoires in Scotland and Corsica – Onur Isci

B4 – Azerbaijan and Citizenship

- Nationalism, Citizenship and Democracy in Azerbaijan – Ayça Ergun, Zana Çitak
- From Rights to Rites: Affective Citizenship and the Militarization of Belonging in Azerbaijan – Zubaidiya Simayi
- Decolonising Musical Heritage in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan: Towards an Anthropology of Musical Nationalism – Aneta Strzemżalska

B5 – Diverse Digital Dimensions

- Living in the world of platform nations: Exploring citizen engagement with digital sovereignty in Brazil, Ukraine and the UK – Cesar Jimenez-Martinez, Sabina Mihelj
- Silent Exit: Digital Labor Migration and the Rewriting of Freedom Beyond the Nation in the Western Balkans – Valdrina Selimi
- Rhetoric and Politics of Disgust: Gendered Embodiment and Nationalism in Turkish Digital Media – Burak Akbalık

B6 – Greece and Macedonia

- Gerrymandering the Nation: Jewish Voting Rights and the Limits of Democracy in Interwar Greece – Ermioni Vlachidou

- “Mobilizing the Nation’s DNA against Populism”: The Macedonian Question and Illiberal Liberalism in the Third Greek Republic (1974-2019) — Anastasios (Tasos) Kostopoulos
- Understanding the Role of Memory in the Social Construction of Ethnic Boundaries: The Case of North Macedonia and the 2001 Armed Conflict — Isaja Karadakovska

16:15 – 17:45 Panels C

C1 – Book panel

- *Nationalism: A World History* by Eric Storm
Discussants: Siniša Malešević, Joep Leerssen, Umut Özkirimli

C2 – Authoritarianism

- The New Face of Nationalism in East-Central Europe: Threat, Freedom, and the Re-Normalization of Authoritarian Preferences after 2022 — Mihnea Simion Stoica, Mihai Ioan Alexandrescu
- City Over Nation? Identity as Lived Experience in Contemporary Hong Kong and Singapore — Mariusz Bogacki
- Authoritarian and Nationalist Trends in the Post-Soviet Space: A Connection or a Temporary Coincidence? — Olga Brusylovska

C3 – Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa

- Ideology amidst violence: rethinking the binaries of nationalism, democracy and freedom in Ethiopian politics — Sarah Vaughan
- The two sides of Ethiopian nationalism: From the lowlands to the sea — Carlo Alberto Contarini
- Different paths to democracy: Nationalism and identity re-construction in post-apartheid South Africa and post-genocide Rwanda in the shadow of the Commonwealth — Paolo Perri, Paolo Gheda

C4 – Contested National, Legal and Societal Spaces

- Spatio-Politics of State Repression and Violence: Law, Power, and Dispossession in Diyarbakır’s Suriçi (Sur) District Post-2015 — Burcu Turkoglu
- White, red and black checkers? Negotiating nationhood and national history in Croatian constitutions since 1963 — Ivan Roško
- The Politics of Lithuania’s Organized Sports Fandom and Support for Ukraine — Ivan Roško

C5 – Indian Developments

- Swaraj Beyond Liberalism: Competing Conceptions of Freedom in Indian Anti-Colonial Nationalism — Kuldeep Sharma
- Postcolonial modernity in India and South Korea: Development, discipline, and the panoptic nation — Junki Nakahara, Kerstin Norris
- Infrastructural Nationalism, Indigenous Resistance and the Paradox of Democratic Integration in Himalayan Borderlands — Shubhanginee Singh
- Negotiating Kingship in a Democratic Order: Modern-day Kingship and Ritual Sovereignty through Gangaur in Marwar, India — Aparna Singh

C6 – Kin-States

- Kin-Minority Enfranchisement and the Reconfiguration of Representation Beyond the State – Aliz Nagy
- Brubaker's Triadic Nexus in Peacetime and in War: The Implications – Pille Petersoo, Marianna Makarova
- Minority identity and democratic participation in context of aggressive kin state – Marianna Makarova

18:00 – 19:15 Anthony Smith lecture

Left, Right, & Centre: National Political Authority and its Symbolization

Jonathan Hearn

Wednesday 22nd April

9:30 – 11:00 Panels D

D1 – Constructing the Nation in Diverse Democracies: Majority Power, Minority Voice, and Democratic Inclusion

- Collective Nostalgia in England: How Attitudes to Britain's past shape contemporary attitudes and behaviour in England – Ailsa Henderson
- Exploring the association between migration and national identities using UK Census data – Ross Bond
- Who Can Criticize Society? An Experiment on Skin Colour, Accent, Gender, and the Perceived Legitimacy to Criticize Canadian Society – Antoine Bilodeau

D2 – Permutations of Religion I

- The First Azorean Autonomist Movement as an Inaugural Expression of Regenerationist Autonomism: Equality, Nation, and the Holy Spirit Worship Tradition – Jorge Antonio Montesdeoca Pérez
- Tough Love: The Nationalization of Sacred Violence in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Western Europe – Asier Hernández Aguirresarobe
- Behind the curtain of ideology: Neo-Pagan nationalism as (heroic) action – Mariusz Filip

D3 – Theory and Philosophy

- An ontological critique of the existence and persistence of nationalism – Ryan Wong
- Nationalism, Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism – Tai-Ying Tung
- National Ethics: Organic Instrumentality and Thin Normativity – Junxiang Fan

D4 – Imagining European Nationalisms

- Articulating the Socialist Nation: National Identity, Democracy, and Freedom in the GDR's Political Imagination – İlker Cörüt
- From Coloniser to Colonised: Collective Forgetting and Victimization in Spanish National Memory – Katie Hudson

- Reimagining national belonging as a subjective movement: How do young Russian-speaking adults negotiate their belonging in the shrinking ethnocentric landscape of Latvian society? – Lena Hercberga

D5 – Israeli and Palestinian Identities

- The Making of an Ethno-Class: The Socioeconomic Dynamics behind the Rise of the Populist Right in Israel – Ofir Abu, Amir Goldstein
- The relationship between national and citizenship marginality and the depth of the Israelization process in East Jerusalem – Mery Najjar About
- From Minority to Sector: Israeli Palestinians and Middle-Class Respectability Politics – Liora Sion

D6 – Ethnic Minorities and Ethnic Conflict

- Voice and Silence: Ethnic Minority Resistance in Lithuania and Latvia – Aleksandra Kuczyńska-Zonik
- Which Ethno-Regionalist Parties Are Eurosceptic and Why? – Emanuele Massetti
- Ethnically Framed, Resource Driven: Hidden Economics of Inter-Ethnic Conflicts – Gia Mosashvili

11:30 – 13:00 Plenary

Can Nationalism be Democratic?

David Miller

14:15 – 15:45 Panels E

E1 – Book panel

- *Nationalism as a Way of Life: The Rise and Transformation of Modern Subjectivities* by Siniša Malešević
Discussants: Gordana Uzelac, Eric Storm, Liliana Riga

E2 – Permutations of Religion 2

- Nationalities, Religion, and Political Inclusion in Urban Governance in the Autonomous Territories of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1867–1918) – Bálint Hilbert
- Popular Preaching, Populist Mobilisation: The Making of Malay Muslim Majoritarianism in Malaysia – Wai Weng Hew
- The German Revolution of 1848 and the Jewish Minority: Between Democratic Freedom and National Exclusion – Doron Avraham

E3 – The Basque Country

- Nationalism, freedoms and self-government: The debate on democracy in the Basque Country during the Spanish Transition (1975–1985) – Leyre Arrieta, Eider Landaberea
- Lost Voices, Reimagined Belonging: Galician Diaspora and National Identity in 1990s Basque Country – RAMÓN BRAIS FREIRE BRAÑA
- Leftist Nationalisms and Radical Democratic Politics in Ireland and the Basque Country – Paolo Perri, Adriano Cirulli

E4 – China and Its Relations

- Constructing the “Mother River”: The Yellow River and the Making of Nationalism in Modern China— Xiangbo Meng
- The impact of nationalism on public perspectives of the Australia-China bilateral relationship — Ciara Morris, Nicholas Thomas
- The Strategic Revenge of Tactical Success: Explaining the Emergence of Exclusionary Localism and its Political Implication— Cheuk Ki (Jacky) Leung, Woon Park

E5 – Foucault and National Discourses

- Rethinking Nationalism with Foucault — Idreas Khandy
- Dead or Alive? Necropolitical Sovereignty, Identity, and Resistance in Balochistan — Salman Rafi Sheikh
- The Hidden Frame and the Grammar of Resistance in Galician Nationalism — Javier de Pablo, Ramón Máiz

E6 – Russian Influences

- Between Empire and Nationhood: Political Transformation in 1830s Wallachia — Cosmin Mihut
- In Search of Russia’s National Idea: From Ideological Vacuum to the Politicisation of History — Hanna Bazhenova
- The Ethical Alliance: Russia, the U.S. Christian Right, and the Moral Geopolitics of Freedom — Lena Surzhko Harned, Rachel Pineo

16:15 – 17:45 Panels F

F0 – AI in Nationalism Studies

- Possibilities and Limits of AI in Qualitative Research on Nationalism and Identity, Beyond Machine Learning — Tamara Trošt
- Narrating the Nation and Its Others: A Computational Analysis of Turkish History Textbooks— Emre Amasyali
- Can Machines Imagine Communities? Promises and Limits of Generative AI in Nationalism Research — Justin Ho
- Studying AI as a Nationalist Phenomenon — Paul Goode

F1 – Post-Soviet Perspectives

- Making History: Genocide Discourse in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia — Anton Weiss-Wendt
- Institutional Barriers and Political Agency: Interest Groups and Ethnic Advocacy in Bulgaria — Szczepan Czarnecki
- From Brotherhood and Unity to Welfare Nationalism in Post-Socialist Slovenia — Veronika Bajt

F2 – Aftermath of WWI

- Spiritual realism and the idea of national freedom: in de Valera’s Ireland and Mannerheim’s Finland. — William Kissane
- Nationalities and nationalisms against Empires: the Italian nationalities’ policy during WWI — Andrea Carteny, Leonardo Bianchini

- “Mussolini-Copy” as Model: Primo de Rivera in the Media of the European Anti-Democratic Right (1923–1930) — Joana Duyster Borreda

F3 – Language and Literary Figures

- A Proposal for a Sociology of Languages and Dialects — Vuk Vukotić
- Dissident Citizenship: Bloomsbury Pacifism and Conscientious Objection — Demet Karabulut Dede
- Danish Nationalism at the Intersection of Freedom, Democracy, and Equality — Kristoffer Bayer

F4 – Angles on Kosovo

- Nationalism in Print: Koha Ditore, Nationalism, and the Kosovo War — Jon Haxhiu
- From Albanian parallel state to Serbian parallel structures – Kosovo’s struggle for integrity and social cohesion – Jakub Piosik-Beszterda
- ‘Democratic outbidding’: Nationalism, self-determination claims and democracy in the modern world – Gëzim Krasniqi

F5 – Patriotism, State, and Political Imagination

- Rethinking Nationalism and Patriotism: Mazzini, Acton, and the Habsburg Legacy — Mario Maritan
- The Last Refuge of the Scoundrel: an analysis of patriotism and national identity in British media, 2014-24 — Iman Shaikh
- The Language of Freedom: Liberty and National Identity in European Parliament Buildings — Athena Leoussi

F6 – Perspectives on Youth

- The Limits of Mass Politics: Croatian Progressive Youth and the Ambiguities of Nationalism and Democracy in Fin de Siècle Croatia — Nikola Tomašegović
- Everyday Democracy in Crisis Times: Youth Perspectives on Rights, Participation, and Freedom of Speech in Slovenia — Ksenija Perković
- Young Adults and New Citizens: The Social Construction Of National Identity And State Affiliation In Contemporary Britain — Betsan Doyle

Thursday 23rd April

9:30 – 11:00 Panels G

G1 – Contested Freedoms: National Honour, Digital Nationalism, and Cross-Strait Identity Politics in Xi-era China

- Historical Foundations of China’s “Wolf Warrior” Nationalism: Confucianist Honour and the Politics of Sovereign Freedom — Zhen Zhang
- An unbearable loss? The Taiwan issue within the Chinese national identity construction discourse — Zhehao Du
- “Freedom with Chinese Characteristics”: Digital Nationalism, Participatory Propaganda, and the Reordering of Liberty in Xi-era China — Xuguorong Jiang

G2 – Ukraine and Russia

- From Soviet Collapse to Re-Imperialization: The Origins of Russia’s War Against Ukraine – Alexei Pimenov
- The Rise of Nationalism in Ukraine in Response to Soviet Agricultural Policies and Famine, 1930–33 – Bohdan Klid
- The role of Russian imperial-ethnic nationalism in the invasion of Ukraine: An ethnosymbolist analysis of the Russian national question and its transformations – Piotr Ahmad

G3 – Variations on National Identity

- The debate on the “nationality principle” in the Habsburg Hungarian public administration in the course of the 1867 Compromise – Szilveszter Csernus-Lukács
- Reconceptualizing Identity and Thickening its Ontology: Narrative Construction, Transformational Experience, and Public Perception – Cheuk Ki (Jacky) Leung
- Large cities, freedom and national identity: national authenticity and metamodernity in metropolises – Christopher Cannell

G4 – Polish Nationalisms

- Discussing Who Is and Who Is Not Polish: The “Our Boys” Exhibition Controversy and the Moral Boundaries of Polish Nationalism – Katarzyna Warmińska
- Minority informal representation in non-democratic settings: Polish minority ethnic brokers in Transnistria – Magdalena Dembińska
- Nationalizing relay, or two fighting nationalisms on the eastern border of the German Empire at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries – Claudia Snochowska-Gonzalez

G5 – Romania and Moldova

- Between Old and New Visual Strategies: The Visual Culture of the Greater Romania Party (1991–2000) – Alexandra Niculae
- Fantasies, Esotericism and the Illusions of a Savior: A Psychoanalytic Approach to Călin Georgescu’s 2024 Presidential Campaign – Robert Erdei
- Nationalism versus Democracy: Parochialism, Antisemitism, and Historicism in the Rhetoric of Moldavian Aristocracy (1856–1880) – Nelu Cristian Ploscaru

G6 – Everyday Aspects of Nationalism

- The Symbolic “We/They” Boundary in Public Debates about Naturalised Athletes – Assiya Sheri, Nikolay, Zeinep, Kuralai Ternov, Abetova, Mukhambetova
- The Nationalist Frames Database: Coding environmentalist, progressive and majority nationalism – Javier Carbonell
- Mixed Couples, Minority Rights, and Everyday Nationalism in Central and Southeastern Europe – Karolina Lendák-Kabók
- The Raise the Colours Campaign: Reassessing Banal and Everyday Nationalism in the Contemporary UK – Claudia Lueders

11:30 – 13:00 Panels H

H1 – Book Panel

- *The Concept of Identity in Iran: Religion, National Disintegration, and Radicalism in Post-Revolutionary Iran* by Reza Talebi

H2 – Nationalism and Emotion

- The Nationalization of Happiness: Zionism and the Emotional Architecture of Freedom – Yair Berlin
- Feeling the Nation Through Foreign Policy: Emotional Framing in Contemporary Hungary – Péter Kállai
- Narrating loss: The relationship between nationalism, difficult heritage and museums – Larissa Schober

H3 – Ukraine at War

- The unmanned nation in arms: Ukrainian drones edify the nation – Jack Matlack
- The Politics of Lithuania's Organized Sports Fandom and Support for Ukraine – Konstantinas Andrijauskas
- Building the Ukrainian Diaspora in Czechia in the Context of Refugee Migration from Ukraine – Daniel Topinka

H4 – Nationalisms in Canada

- Nationalism on Display: French Canadian Propaganda in the Shadow of the British Empire 1914–1919 – Aimée Dion
- The Local Dynamics of National Identity: Popular Mobilization(s), Green Nationalism(s), and the Protection of an Endangered Species in Quebec/Canada – Charles Berthelet
- Nation Talk Two-Ways: Armenian Emigrants in Canada Remembering Turkey – Yesim Bayar
- The Lawful Truth: National Self-Determination, Democracy and the Courts – Neil Cruickshank

H5 – Minorities, Territories, and Emigres

- Territorial Autonomy as Symbolic Homeland in the Kachin Conflict – Lea Zuliani
- The Contingent Alignment of Minority Nationalism and Democratic Principles: Kurdish Politics Across Four States – Mostafa Khalili
- Between Nation and Confederation: Azerbaijani Émigré Politics in Interwar Europe – Gozde Yazici Corut

H6 – Dimensions of the USA

- The Other Christian Nationalism: Assessing Comparative Christian Nationalism(s) in North America – Gabriel Paxton
- Two Democracies at Stake: Americans' Commitment to Ukrainian Nationhood – Cortney Copeland
- Atlantic Crossings: A Conceptual History of Minorities' Disappearance from Europe and Reappearance in the United States, 1932-1978 – Emmanuel Dalle Mulle

14:15 – 15:45 Plenary

Nationalism, Polarization, and the Unravelling of Liberal Democracy

Eric Taylor Woods and Robert Schertzer