Our world is witnessing the striking rise of right-wing, authoritarian regimes.

At this unique, one-day symposium, leading scholars will explore this phenomenon’s roots and meanings, comparatively and transnationally.

Sean Jacobs, New School
Lisa McGirr, Harvard University
Philipp Ther, New York University
Adam Tooze, Columbia University
Barbara Weinstein, New York University

Friday, March 29
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Sarratt 325/327

Co-sponsored by:
American Studies, Asian Studies, Global History Seminar, History Department, Latin American Studies, Max Kade Center, Office of Research, College of Arts & Sciences

For more information or a complete schedule, contact Prof. Paul A. Kramer, Department of History, paul.a.kramer@vanderbilt.edu
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Some questions we’re hoping to take on:

How were and are these movements and their conditions of possibility shaped by the global financial crisis and the politics of austerity?

What are these movements’ relationships to democratic institutions? To what extent do they attempt to co-opt democratic power, to what extent do they attempt to sideline or displace democratic politics?

What ideological and organizational role have the politics of gender and sexuality played, including appeals to "traditional" patriarchal family structures and the performance of masculinist authority?

In what ways has regime legitimacy and hegemonic consensus been built through the racializing and ethnicizing of national communities and state power, and the politics of nativist boundary-making?

To what extent does the category of "populism" shed useful light on these movements, and to what extent is it a dead end (conflating left and right mobilizations, over-emphasizing rhetorical tone, for example)?

What role do prior histories of authoritarian movements and regimes play in advancing, legitimating and contesting these present-day movements? (through fantasies of authoritarian greatness restored, or cautionary tales of wrong turns to be avoided, for example.)

How do these movements position themselves in the world? How do they handle similarities and/or homologies between themselves and other movements?
Schedule:

8:30 am-8:45 am: continental breakfast

8:45 am-9 am: introduction, Prof. Paul Kramer (Vanderbilt)

9 am-10:30 am:
   Prof. Philipp Ther (NYU): historian of Central Europe
   Prof. Sean Jacobs (New School): historian of Southern Africa

10:30 am-10:45 am: coffee break

10:45 AM-12:15 pm:
   Prof. Barbara Weinstein (NYU): historian of Brazil
   Prof. Lisa McGirr (Harvard): historian of the United States

12:15 pm-1:30 pm: lunch provided
   (for lunch, please RSVP to Philipp Hauser at philipp.n.hauser@vanderbilt.edu by Monday, March 25th with a sandwich order from Panera).

1:30 pm-3 pm: comment by Prof. Adam Tooze (Columbia), and open discussion

3 pm-4:30 pm: reception

For information: paul.a.kramer@vanderbilt.edu