

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PANDEMIC: Impact and opportunities



Guests speakers:



KATARZYNA GARDAPKHADZE

Katarzyna Gardapkhadze is the First Deputy Director/Director’s Alternate of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Before that, she served as the Head of ODIHR’s Human Rights Department and held other program management functions in the Office. In recognition of her leadership and dedication while working for ODIHR, in 2019 she received the Ambassador for Liberty and Peace International Award of Excellence.

Katarzyna has 25 years of experience in public services, international non-profits and multilateral organizations in Europe, North America, South Caucasus and Central Asia. Before joining the OSCE, she was a director of Save the Children child welfare programs, based in Tbilisi, Georgia. Earlier, she contributed her expertise to various initiatives, from the Eurasia Foundation’s South Caucasus media support program and Georgia youth peace project, to community strengthening work by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

Educated in social sciences, Katarzyna is a leadership, strategic management and organizational development expert. A graduate of Stanford Leadership Academy for Development, and a certified trainer (Institute for Leadership & Management), she is strongly committed to responsible leadership rooted in ethical values, centered around human potential and driven by sustainable social impact.



DR KEVIN CASAS-ZAMORA

Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora is the Secretary-General of International IDEA since 1 August 2019. Casas-Zamora has more than 25 years of experience in democratic governance as a researcher, analyst, educator, consultant and public official. He embodies the rare combination of a distinguished academic career—strongly focused on electoral systems and democratic institutions—with practical experience as a high-level public official in his home country as well as multilateral organizations.

Casas-Zamora is Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington, DC-based policy research centre. Until recently, he was member of Costa Rica’s Presidential Commission for State Reform, and managing director at Analitica Consulting (Analitica Consultores). Previously, he was Costa Rica’s Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program’s Human Development Report.

He has taught at Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the University of Texas at Dallas, among many higher education institutions.

He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a Masters in Government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford. He has authored several studies on campaign finance, elections, democratization, citizen security and civil-military relations in Latin America. His doctoral thesis, entitled “Paying for Democracy in Latin America: Political Finance and State Subsidies for Parties in Costa Rica and Uruguay”, won the 2004 Jean Blondel PhD Prize of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and was published in 2005 by the ECPR. He was selected as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007. In 2013, he became a member of the Bretton Woods Committee.

Moderator:



VALERIE HOPKINS

Valerie Hopkins is the Financial Times’ South-East Europe correspondent, covering Hungary, Romania, the former Yugoslavia and Albania. Before moving to her base in Budapest, Valerie worked extensively in the Balkans, with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and as a freelance journalist. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Politico, Foreign Policy,

Al Jazeera, the Guardian, Reuters, OpenDemocracy, Mother Jones, and more. Valerie has a Master of Arts in Political Journalism from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and a B.A. in International Relations (focus on Russian and Post-Soviet Studies) from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

