

Mike Wilkinson

'Constitutionalism, neo-imperialism & the authoritarian challenge in Europe'

Abstract: The presentation offers a critical reflection on the possibility of using the European Union to tackle the authoritarian challenge. It examines the dominant legalistic and constitutional elements within the EU, historicising the interplay of law, politics, and society in the rise of European constitutionalism and the decline of democracy. It explores how 'Europeanism' may replicate imperialist features rather than offering an antidote to nationalism. Finally, it focuses on the connection between European constitutionalism and a neo-imperialist mindset and the emergence of what is labelled 'authoritarian populism'

Bio: Mike Wilkinson is Professor of Law at LSE. He is the author of *Authoritarian Liberalism and the Transformation of Modern Europe* (OUP, 2021).

Discussant: Marta Bucholc (Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw)