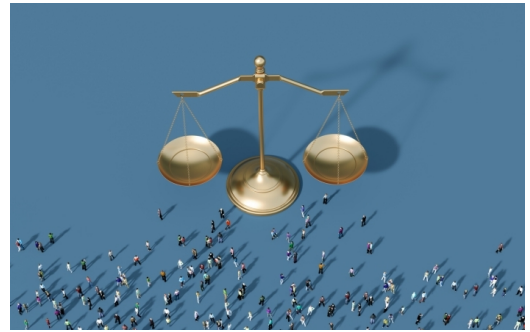




Law and Democratic Backsliding



02.Jul - 03.Jul 2026

Cod. D09-26

Mod.:

Face-to-face

Edition

2026

Activity type

Summer course

Date

02.Jul - 03.Jul 2026

Location

Miramar Palace

Languages

Spanish English

Academic Validity

20 hours

Organising Committee



Description

In recent times, liberal democracies have undergone processes of institutional erosion and democratic backsliding, both within and beyond Europe. This phenomenon is reflected in extreme polarization, disinformation, institutional capture, and the rise of right- and left-wing populisms that challenge constitutional checks and balances and the principles of the rule of law.

The Summer Course adopts an interdisciplinary approach—primarily legal but in dialogue with political science and sociology—to understand the causes, dynamics, and consequences of this democratic crisis. A central focus of the program will be to examine the capacity of law and legal mechanisms (constitutional, administrative, and European) to contain these dynamics: from systems of checks and balances to judicial review, independent oversight bodies, fundamental rights guarantees, and European rule-of-law monitoring instruments. At the same time, the course will address their limitations, stemming from political pressure, institutional capture, the instrumentalization of law by “illiberal actors,” and the inherent fragility of legal norms when the democratic culture that sustains them deteriorates.

Objectives

Understanding populist strategies and narratives across their various ideological forms.

Comparative analysis of other European and International cases of democratic backsliding.

Assess the protective potential and vulnerabilities of the law in the face of institutional erosion.

Discuss normative and policy responses aimed at strengthening democratic resilience.

In collaboration with



Program

02-07-2026

09:00 - 09:15	Registration
09:15 - 09:30	Bienvenida y saludo. Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa y directores del curso
09:30 - 10:00	“Nacional-populismo y democracia inmediata” Jesús María Casquete Badallo Universidad del País Vasco - Catedrático de Historia del Pensamiento y de los Movimientos Sociales y Políticos Language: Español
10:00 - 10:30	“Mujeres en política en un contexto de crisis democrática” Ainhoa Novo Arbona Universidad del País Vasco - Profesora de Ciencia Política Language: Español
10:30 - 11:00	“Preguntas y Debate sobre las ponencias “
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:00	“El papel de los tribunales constitucionales en contextos de erosión democrática” Maria Angeles Ahumada Ruiz Universidad Autónoma de Madrid - Profesora de Derecho Constitucional Language: Español
12:00 - 12:30	“Independencia judicial en tiempos inciertos: una perspectiva europea” Nuria González Campaña Universitat de Barcelona - Profesora de Derecho Constitucional Language: Español
12:30 - 13:00	“Preguntas y Debate sobre la ponencia” Mikel Díez Sarasola Language: Español
13:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:00	“Constitutional Pluralism and Democracy “ Tom Flynn Universidad Pablo de Olavide - profesor Derecho Constitucional Language: English
16:00 - 16:30	“La judicialización de los valores europeos y la defensa de la democracia” Pablo Cruz Mantilla de los Ríos Universidad Pablo de Olavide - Profesor Derecho Constitucional Language: Español
16:30 - 17:00	“Preguntas y Debate sobre la ponencia” Mikel Díez Sarasola Language: Español

03-07-2026

09:30 - 10:00	<p>“Unchecked Arbitrary Power in the European Union “</p> <p>Dimitry Kochenov Central European University - Professor of Legal Studies Language: English</p> <hr/>
10:00 - 10:30	<p>“Unchecked Arbitrary Power in the European Union “</p> <p>Sarah Ganty Université Catholique de Louvain - Postdoctoral Fellow Language: English</p> <hr/>
10:30 - 11:00	<p>“preguntas y debate sobre la ponencia“</p> <p>Mikel Díez Sarasola Language: Español</p> <hr/>
11:00 - 11:30	<p>Coffee break</p> <hr/>
11:30 - 12:00	<p>“La Izquierda Populista como Amenaza para la Democracia Liberal: Evidencia de América Latina“</p> <p>Benjamin García-Holgado University of Delaware - Professor of Political Science Language: Español</p> <hr/>
12:00 - 12:30	<p>“Saving the EU from Illiberal Member States“</p> <p>Lando Kirchmair University of Innsbruck - Professor of Public Law Language: English</p> <hr/>
12:30 - 13:00	<p>“Preguntas y debate sobre la ponencia“</p> <p>Mikel Díez Sarasola Language: Español</p> <hr/>
13:00 - 14:00	<p>Round table: “perspectivas desde la politica“</p> <hr/>

Directed by



Mikel Díez Sarasola

Universidad del País Vasco , Profesor

Professor of Constitutionalism and Globalization EHU/UPV Director of International Cooperation of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. Professor of International Law at the University of Deusto. D. in Law and International Relations from the EHU under the direction of Noe Cornago and co-direction of Talha Syed. The global regime of Intellectual Property. LLM University of California, Berkeley. Fulbright Scholarship 2003-2004. Law Degree EHU



Alberto López Basaguren

UPV/EHU, Catedrático de Derecho Constitucional

UPV/EHU, Catedrático de Derecho Constitucional Catedrático de Derecho Constitucional en la UPV/EHU y Life Member de Clare Hall College, Universidad de Cambridge (Reino Unido). Ha formado parte del Comité de Expertos de la CELRM del Consejo de Europa (2006-2013), del Consejo Asesor del Euskera (2007-2016) y de la Comisión Arbitral (2009-2015). Entre sus publicaciones más recientes se incluyen: “La reforma federal del sistema autonómico: ¿cuadratura del círculo o triángulo virtuoso?” (2025), “Demandas de secesión en contextos democráticos. Desarrollos a partir de la teoría canadiense de la claridad” (2024), “El Ararteko y su ley reguladora a examen: balance y perspectivas de reforma” (2024), “La distribución de competencias en el sistema autonómico: la necesidad de la reforma” (2024), “Minority Languages in Spain: Recognition, Promotion and Some Conflicts” (2022, con Antonio López Castillo), “Cuestiones territoriales y secesión: reflexiones comparadas en la democracia de emergencia” (2022), “El Tribunal Constitucional frente a la emergencia pandémica (SSTC 148/2021, 168/2021 y 183/2021)” (2022), “Sobre elecciones en tiempo de pandemia. A propósito de las elecciones en Euskadi y Galicia y de la anulación de las elecciones en Cataluña

Teachers



Maria Angeles Ahumada Ruiz



Jesús María Casquete Badallo



Pablo Cruz Mantilla de los Ríos

Universidad Pompeu Fabra



Mikel Díez Sarasola

Universidad del País Vasco , Profesor

Professor of Constitutionalism and Globalization EHU/UPV Director of International Cooperation of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. Professor of International Law at the University of Deusto. D. in Law and International Relations from the EHU under the direction of Noe Cornago and co-direction of Talha Syed. The global regime of Intellectual Property. LLM University of California, Berkeley. Fulbright Scholarship 2003-2004. Law Degree EHU



Tom Flynn



Sarah Ganty



Benjamin García-Holgado



Nuria González Campaña



Lando Kirchmair



Dimitry Kochenov

Prof Dimitry Kochenov holds a chair in European Constitutional Law and Citizenship and specializes in Citizenship and the Rule of Law. He served as a guest professor or a fellow in numerous institutions worldwide, including Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School (LAPA), NYU Law School (Emile Noël), UNAM Mexico, LUISS in Rome (Co-chair of EU Law), Institute of Global Studies in Basel, and the Scuola dei Studi Superiori at the University of Torino. His *Citizenship* (MIT Press 2019) has been translated into Italian and Russian and other most recent works include *Quality of Nationality Index* (ed with Lindeboom, Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2020); *The Internal Market and the Future of European Integration* (ed with Amtenbrink, Davies and Lindeboom, Cambridge 2019); *EU Citizenship and Federalism* (ed Cambridge 2017); *The Enforcement of EU Law and Values* (ed with Jakab, Oxford, 2017). Dimitry consulted governments and international organizations on the subjects of his academic interest.



Ainhoa Novo Arbona

UPV/EHU, Profesora agregada

PhD Lecturer of the Department of Political Science and Administration of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication (UPV/EHU). She has been Vice Dean of Teaching Organization of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication and Coordinator of the Degree in Political Science and Public Management. For the last five years, she has been a member of the Undergraduate Commission of the University of the Basque Country and a member of the Editorial Board of the Spanish Journal of Political Science. Public policies, especially equality policies and federal systems have been her main lines of research.

Registration fees

FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 02-07-2026
General	30,00 EUR
Reduced fee regular	20,00 EUR
Registration exemptions	20,00 EUR
Student	0 EUR
young fee	20,00 EUR

Place

Miramar Palace

Pº de Miraconcha nº 48. Donostia / San Sebastián

Gipuzkoa