Overview
From South Africa and Brazil to the United States and beyond, authoritarian forces are challenging and undermining democratic norms and centralizing power, a process referred to as autocratization. In the past decade alone, the population living in autocracies jumped from 49% to 70% and the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to levels last registered in 1989. But autocratization is not happening unopposed. On the contrary, it is being met with different forms of resistance from domestic and transnational actors across the world. The University of Wisconsin Law School, along with the Transnational Law Institute at King's College, London, and the FGV Law School in São Paulo, Brazil, is studying resistance to authoritarianism in many countries. This workshop draws on this research to look at the spread of authoritarianism and resistance to it in the United States and elsewhere.

Format:
Discussants should make a brief summary of the paper and outline comments and critiques. They will have 8-12 minutes where there are 4 papers, and 12-15 minutes where there are 3 papers. After the workshop, please send a note with your comments and suggestions to the author(s) and the Editors.

Day 1: Friday, September 22, 2023

8:30am  Breakfast and registration

9:00 am  Welcome
Sumudu Atapattu
Director, Global Legal Studies Center, UW Law School

Susannah Tahk
Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development
UW Law School
9:15-10:15am  Global Resistance to Authoritarian Diffusion: An Overview
(Public webinar)
Chair: Sumudu Atapattu

“Rise of Authoritarianism”
Fabio de Sa e Silva

“Forms of Resistance to Autocracy”
Heinz Klug

“Autocracy and Resistance in the United States”
Richard Abel

“Lawyers in Resistance to Autocracy”
Leigha Crout

10:15-10:30am  Introduction to Workshop
Dean Dan Tokaji, David Trubek and Heinz Klug

10:30-10:40am  Break

10:40am-12:40pm  Panel 1
Chair: David Trubek

“Law as Resilience and Law as Roadblocks: Protest Politics and Resistance in India”
Discussants: Octavio Ferraz and Gaurav Mukherjee
Authors: Mohsin Bhat and Aparna Chandra*

“Russia Overview”
Discussant: Kathryn Hendley
Author: Natasha Lindstaedt*

“Defenders but not Resisters: The Role of Lawyers in Putin's Russia”
Discussant: Rick Abel
Author: Kathryn Hendley

“A Group of Professors-turned-political-activists: Legal Resistance to Regime Changes in Israel 2023”
Discussant: Nadav Shelef
Author: Ronit Levine-Schnur

12:40pm – 1:30pm  Lunch

1:30 – 3:30pm  Panel 2
Chair: Octavio Ferraz
“It Can Happen Here: Resistance to Autocracy under Trump and Trumpism”
Discussants: Heinz Klug and Scott Cummings*
Author: Rick Abel

Discussant: Alexandra Huneeus
Author: Oscar Vilhena Vieira

“Judicial Resistance to Autocracy: South African Case Study”
Discussant: Mohsin Bhat
Authors: Heinz Klug, Dee Smythe,* Nurina Ally, Mbekezeli Benjamin, Nomfundo Ramalekana*

3:30-3:45pm Break

3:45-5:45pm Panel 3
Chair: Raquel Pimenta

“Resistance to Authoritarianism in Brazil: the August 11, 2022 Episode”
Discussant: Bojan Bugaric
Authors: Raquel Pimenta, Débora Alves Maciel, Marta Machado*

“Global Resistance to Authoritarian Diffusion: the People’s Republic of China”
Discussant: Fabio de Sa e Silva
Author: Leigha Crout

“Autocracy and Resistance in Hungary Since 2010”
Discussant: Sofia Bordin Rolim
Authors: Bojan Bugaric and Gábor Halmai

6:30 pm Dinner for workshop speakers, chairs, discussants and invited guests

Day 2: Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:30-9:00am Breakfast

9:00 – 11:15am Panel 4
Chair: Fabio de Sa e Silva
“International Human Rights Institutions and Resistance to Autocratization: What Role Can and Have They Played?”
Discussants: Oscar Vilhena Vieira and Javier Couso
Authors: Octavio Ferraz and Nina Hart

Discussant: Gábor Halmai
Authors: Raquel Pimenta, Mario Shapiro,* David Trubek

“Sanctions, Autocratization and Human Security”
Discussant: Mario Shapiro*
Authors: Bojan Bugaric and Natasha Lindstaedt*

“Repertoires of Resistance”
Discussant: Raquel Pimenta
Author: Heinz Klug

“Comparing Lawyer Resistance in the GRAD Countries”
Presentation: Leigha Crout
Authors: Leigha Crout, Sofia Rolim, David Trubek

11:15-11:30am  Break
11:30-12:30pm  GRAD Book
   Editing comments, procedures, and timeline
   Natasha Lindstaedt,* Octavio Ferraz, Oscar Vilhena Vieira

12:30-1:30pm  Lunch
1:30-2:30pm  Further projects
   Chair: Sofia Bordin Rolim
   Research on Lawyering for and against Authoritarianism
   Fabio de Sa e Silva
   Relationships between GRAD and Law and Development scholarship
   Bojan Bugaric

6:00pm  Dinner for those who are staying overnight in Madison

* Virtual attendance
List of participants
(In-person and virtual)

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