

Popular Culture and World Politics v 16

Political Violence and Popular Culture: Exploring Intersections of Media, Representation, and Conflict

Lisbon, 20-21 November 2025 - Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon

DAY 1, Thursday 20 November 2025 (Auditorium B2.03, Building 2, Floor 2)

9:45-10:00 Welcome by CEI-Iscte

10:00-11:30 Panel 1: Cultural forms of resistance: Digital, visual and methodological interventions

Chair: Nick Robinson (University of Leeds)

1. "Digital Storytelling as Resistance: Chinese Queer Diasporic Activism and the Politics of Violence Online" - **Shutong (Ash) Chen** (University of New South Wales)
2. "Digital Resistance: Afghan Women's Use of Social Media Against Political Violence" - **Joana Rafael Pereira** (CEI-Iscte)
3. "Visualising Resistance: A Research-to-Film Project on Portugal's Armed Struggle Against the Dictatorship" - **Raquel da Silva** (CEI-Iscte)
4. "Music as Method: Interventions and Practices of Popular Culture in World Politics" - **Matt Davies** (Newcastle University)

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break (provided)

11:45-13:15 Panel 2: Majoritarian politics and creator culture in the Global South

Chair: David Mutimer (York University)

1. "Entertaining against odds: Borders, platformisation and practices of going on in the crossfire of nationalisms" - **Gazal Shekhawat** (London School of Economics and Political Science)
2. "Reclaiming Black femininity against majoritarian politics: the case of Mauritius" - **Joe-Ann Chavry** (London School of Economics and Political Science)
3. "'Relatable' lack and the production visual ephemera of the Right" - **Subhajit Sikder** (London School of Economics and Political Science)

4. "Theorizing the Role of Cultural Producers: The Affective Labor of Geopolitics in Contemporary Turkey" - **Ceren Çetinkaya** (Central European University)

13:15-14:15 Lunch break (provided)

14:15-15:45 Panel 3: Gender, violence and digital misogyny

Chair: Raquel da Silva (CEI-Iscte)

1. "Cyberspace and Gender-Based Violence: Violent Imagery in the Spread of Online Misogyny" - **Jéssica Pereira** (NOVA University Lisbon)
2. "Pop Porn or Porn Pop: Taylor Swift, Lily Phillips and the Sexualised Commodification of Female Vulnerability" – **Julian Schmid** (American University in the Emirates) and **Alessia Maglietta** (Central European University)
3. "Investigating the 'womanosphere': patriarchy, feminism and backlash in popular culture and social media" - **Louise Pears** (University of Leeds)
4. "Narrative Construction in The Boys Television Series: Gendering Violence and Security" - **Cassandra K. Cogan**

15:45-16:00 Coffee break (provided)

16:00-17:30 Panel 4: Terrorism, counterterrorism and security narratives

Chair: Morgane Desoutter (University of Magdeburg)

1. "Superheroes and the State of Exception: Tracing Counterterrorism Discourses in Civil War and Civil War II" - **Marco Lauri** (Università e Campus) and **Fabrizio Leonardo Cuccu** (Dublin City University)
2. "'We Make the Terror': House of Cards and the War on Terror" - **Nick Brooke** (University of St Andrews)
3. "Between Terrorism and State Terror: Morality of Violent Resistance against Totalitarian Regime in V for Vendetta Movie" - **Wojciech Lewandowski** (University of Warsaw)
4. "An Aesthetics of Global Policing: The INTERPOL in Popular Culture" - **Felix Ciută** (University College London)

17h45-19:30 Alcindo (documentary + Q&A with the director Miguel Does)

DAY 2, Friday 21 November 2025 (Auditorium B2.03, Building 2, Floor 2)

9:00-10:30 Panel 5: State violence and military representations

Chair: Matt Davies (Newcastle University)

1. "Staging German Remilitarization: On the Audio-Visual Composition of the Bundeswehr's Web Series" - **Sarah Then Bergh** (Cornell University)
2. "Warfare on Autopilot? Popular Culture, AI, and the Weaponized Body" - **Morgane Desoutter** (University of Magdeburg)
3. "'What Kind of American Are You?' Plotting Civil War within the PWCP Continuum" - **Robert Saunders** (Farmingdale State College)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break (provided)

10:45-12:15 Panel 6: Interactive media and gaming cultures

Chair: Louise Pears (University of Leeds)

1. "Videogames and gender – searching for Lara 3.0?" - **Nick Robinson** (University of Leeds)
2. "'Our mums would call us in for dinner. But no one calls us anymore': Squid Game, neo-liberalism and abandonment" - **Julian Schmid** (American University in the Emirates)
3. "'A Second Plane has hit Cornelia Street': The Invocation of 9/11 in written and visual meme formats" - **Nick Brooke** (University of St Andrews)
4. "Mirthful Memes and Malevolent Movements: Unraveling the Digital Presence of the Hindu Far Right" - **Ananya Sharma** (Ashoka University)

12:15-13H15 Book launch

Chair: Raquel da Silva (CEI-Iscte)

Discussant: Robert Saunders (Farmingdale State College)

Marvel, DC and US Security: The Superhero Genre and Foreign Policy in the Twenty-first Century - **Julian Schmid** (American University in the Emirates)

13:15-14:15 Lunch break (provided)

14:15-15:45 Panel 7: Popular culture, displacement, and the politics of representation

Chair: Ceren Çetinkaya (Central European University)

1. "From Global to Universal Agency? District 9 and the Politics of Migration" - **Anthony F Lang, Jr** (University of St Andrews) and **William Vlcek** (University of St Andrews)
2. "The Damsel in Distress and the Knight in Shining Armour: How Popular Culture Influences the Perceptions of Sex Trafficking" - **Andreia Moreira de Almeida** (University of Coimbra & Sciences Po Bordeaux)
3. "Digital Extremism and Political Violence: The Radicalization of the Far-Right on Social Media and the Impact on the Representation of Migrants" - **Angélica Lima** (Universidade Portucalense)
4. "'Arraial' festivities as resistance: Popular culture and the contestation of austerity urbanism on Lisbon" - **Ana Beatriz da Costa Milhano** (Iscte) and **Luís Filipe Gonçalves Mendes** (IGOT – Universidade de Lisboa)

15:45-16:00 Coffee break (provided)

16:00-17:30 Panel 8: Extremism, Violence and Contemporary Politics

Chair: Fabrizio Leonardo Cuccu (Dublin City University)

1. "Incel Violence: A Terrorism Classification Debate" - **Kara Schneider**
2. "The Shots Seen 'Round the World-or-'Saint Luigi', Public Spectacle and the Accelerationist Assassination of a 'Merchant of Death'" - **Joel Vessels** (Nassau Community College, SUNY)
3. "The Viral Reels and Instastories: Gendered Aesthetics, Piety, and Violent Extremism in the Age of Social Media" - **Nuri Veronika** (Monash University)
4. "A not so liberal utopia: Relocating the crisis of liberal international order in Star Trek's The Next Generation" - **Sarah Bulmer** (University of Exeter), **Faiz Sheikh** (University of Exeter), **Owen David Thomas** (University of Exeter) and **Daniel Christopher Watson** (International Institute of Strategic Studies)