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**CANVAS**

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**SUMMER  
ACADEMY**

**JUNE 2022**

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## SESSION I

### IT'S A COUP SEASON - HOW TO FIGHT BACK THE GLOBAL TREND OF MILITARY POWER GRABS

**Monday, June 6 at 3 pm CET / 9 am EST**

Last year saw a rash of coups d'état across the world, from West Africa to Southeast Asia, and the reverberations of 2021 political takeovers are continuing into the new year in Sudan, Myanmar, and elsewhere. Early 2022 saw Burkina Faso becoming the fourth country in the Sahel to experience a military coup in the past 18 months, after Mali, Chad, and Guinea. With a global trend of the military seizing power in lingering autocracies as well as transitional semi-democracies, activists around the globe are taking on new strategies and tactics to challenge illegitimate and power thirsty generals, and they have succeeded on a very untraditional battleground - tackling their business interests.

This panel will examine a global and historic approach to denying legitimacy and obedience to putschists, outlined in Gene Sharp's legendary "Anti-Coup" manual, and explore both the implementation of the CANVAS toolbox and creativity in local activism on some of the most inspiring anti-coup battlefields.

**Moderator: Srdja Popovic**



## Session II

### UKRAINE AND RUSSIA: ROLE OF GLOBAL CIVIL RESILIENCE IN COUNTERING INVASION AND WAR

Thursday, June 9 at 3 pm CET / 9 am EST

Since Russia launched the military operation against Ukraine on February 24th, the world has witnessed devastating destruction and loss, as well as resilience and large-scale anti-war protests worldwide. Civil society has enormous potential to reach and transform conflict into a less violent and more peaceful, constructive interaction. Protecting democracy and its values is a matter of national security, strengthened by a firm civil society. Violence is never the answer, and non-violent movements can play a significant role in de-escalating this conflict and protecting rule of law and freedom.

This panel will focus on the current situation and the role of non-violent movements in conflict de-escalation. It further raises questions on whether this dispute can serve as inspiration for civil mobilization and non-violent change in Ukraine and Russia, as well as its implications in former Soviet countries.

Moderator: Slobodan Djinovic



## Session III

### WOMEN RISING - HOW WOMEN ACTIVISM IS RESHAPING THE WORLD

Monday, June 13 at 3 pm CET / 9 am EST

Throughout history, women have played important roles in various resistance movements around the world. From Nicaragua and Cuba to Indonesia and Thailand, from Zimbabwe to Syria and Egypt, pictures and videos of these brave women have overflowed the internet and mainstream media. Yet, their efforts to lead the movement were often overshadowed by men who still received more attention and credit for the movement's success in popular narratives. Additionally, women experienced gender discrimination and even sexual harassment within the movement. Although women are on the frontlines of the nonviolent movements, they are often criticized as too emotional, vulnerable, or not capable to lead the transition or take political roles. The question we are raising is what can be done to change this narrative? We have seen some positive change with the increase of the number of women in parliament and elected public positions, but women are still being used as scapegoats or puppets for men with greater political power.

In this session, we will discuss what the international community can do to help empower women, what women and other movements can do to uplift women leaders, and how this change can be brought about, especially in societies with extreme patriarchal mentalities.

Moderator: Breza Race



## Session IV

### HOW ENVIRONMENT AND CORRUPTION ARE SHAPING NEW BREED OF “BLITZKRIEG” - SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN DECAYING DEMOCRACIES

**Thursday, June 16 at 3 pm CET / 9 am EST**

From Turkey, India and Hungary to Brazil and the Philippines, a global wave of populism is threatening democratic institutions and tilting world democracy towards authoritarian domination. However, there is a glimpse of hope when we look at countries with backsliding freedoms, despite them being ruled by aspiring autocrats, experiencing societal apathy, and enduring divided opposition. Nonpartisan, diverse, and mostly youth-driven movements triggered by “nonpolitical” topics, such as corruption or environmental degradation, are on the rise. These movements are shaking governments and waking up societies worldwide.

This panel will explore the nature, organizational structure, and growth trends of what is seen as the “blitzkrieg” movement that threatens semi-authoritarian leaders.

**Moderator: Srdja Popovic**





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