SouthEastern Rights Network Fall 2026 Workshop

Friday, October 9, 2026

SpringHill Suites Athens Downtown/University

220 S Hull St, Athens, GA 30605

University of Georgia

9:00 AM: **Coffee and Continental Breakfast**

9:15 AM: **Welcome & Introductions**

9:30 – 10:45 AM: **Panel 1**

Idean Salehyan (University of Georgia)
"The Political Economy of Digital Repression: Evidence from the 'Women, Life, Freedom' Protests in Iran" (with Babak Rezae Daryakenari)

Burak Kazim Yilmaz (Emory University)
"Making Populations Legible: Curfews, Displacement, and Counterinsurgency in Turkey"

Samuel Amankwah (Georgia State University)
"When Does Political Criticism Become Political Abuse? Free Speech, Incivility, and Democratic Discourse in Ghana"

– Break –

11:00 AM to 12:15 PM: **Panel 2**

Natán Skigin (University of Georgia)
"Exposing the Stigmatizing State: How Confronting Atrocities Shapes Support for Repression and Accountability"

Wajiha Mekki (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
"The Role of Pedagogy in Rural Education" (with Inaya Akbarali)

Hye Ryeon Jang (Morehouse College)
"Securing the Rise: Oil Vulnerability, Asymmetric Dependence, and China's Selective Maritime Escalation, 1992-2015"

– Lunch –

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1:15– 2:30 PM: **Panel 3**

Hilal Sert (Georgia State University)
"Rebels or Rockets? Retaliation Strategies Against Rebel Sponsorship"

Mohammed Topcu (Georgia State University)
"Invade, Delegate, or Coerce? The Domestic Consequences of Foreign-Imposed Regime Change"

Eduardo Burkle (University of Georgia)
"Shaping Collective Memory of Political Violence: Past Atrocities and Public Demand for Memorialization After Dictatorship" (with Natán Skigin)

– Break –

2:45 – 3:45 PM: **Poster Session**

Skyler Stirling (GSU)
"Borrowed Sovereignty and the Fragmentation of Rights in Metropolitan Atlanta"

Jannek Kiermayer (UGA)
"Sanctions and Death: Excess Mortality in Sender and Third Countries"

Ashlyn Goode (UGA)
"Judging Mental Health: How Judicial Decision-Making Addresses the Mental Health Crisis in the United States"

Raquel Beatriz Caldas Laranjeira (UGA)
"Security First, Democracy Later? Public Support for Executive Power in El Salvador"

Sam Zuckerman (GSU)
"Right to One's Own Land?: Locke's Liberalism, Mills' Racial Contract, and the Appropriation of Māori Land by the British Crown and New Zealand Government"

Claire Scafidi, Vanessa Rodriguez McCowan, & Bianca Orfila Monet (UGA)
"A Dashboard of Women, Peace, and Security Local Action"

Yashesvi Singh
"Critical Minerals, Foreign Investment and Indigenous Rights: Human Rights and Regulatory Challenges in the Energy Transition"

Ana Caroline Sales e Souza Garcia (EMMIR) & Linn Normand (UGA)
"From Demonization to Datafication: AI and the Institutionalization of Dehumanization in EU Migration Governance"

4:00: **Happy Hour**

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