

Presidential election in Belarus

against the background of pandemic and popular protests

Zoom-Webinar
30th June 2020
17.00 CET



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The presidential election in Belarus is scheduled for the 9th of August this year. Under the circumstances of the pandemic Covid 19 and growing popular discontent, the smooth re-election of the incumbent president, Aliaksandr Lukashenka, for his 6th term is put into question.

The country witnesses an unprecedented level of publicly expressed support for alternative candidates coming from various social groups far beyond the classical opposition electorate. At least two presidential candidates are former high-profile regime insiders. Their popularity and background seem to represent a substantial threat to the regime – two out of three most popular figures have been detained so far, while a wave of repressions against people gathering signatures and protesting against detentions has started.

How to explain the sudden signs of extensive politisation in Belarus? To what extent has the Covid-19 pandemic changed the relationship between citizens and state while simultaneously boosting social solidarity? What is the role of social media and online activism in the society's capacity to self-organise? And what impact does this pressure have on the unity of the political elite?

Information for participants will be sent after registration.

The discussion will be held in English.

We ask for registration up to the 29th June via: office@dgo-online.org

Discussants

Ryhor Astapenia | Robert Bosch Stiftung Academy Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House, London
Aliaksandr Herasimenka | Computational Propaganda Project, University of Oxford

Moderation

Olga Dryndova | Editor "Belarus-Analysen" | Deputy Chair, German-Belarusian Society, Berlin

Introduction

Markus Meckel | Chair, German-Belarusian Society, Berlin
Gabriele Freitag | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V.



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