

OUR SPEAKERS

Masala, Carlo | Keynote Speaker



Carlo Masala is a professor for international politics at the Bundeswehr University Munich. He previously worked as deputy director in the research department at the NATO Defence College in Rome. Since January 2024, Masala has been director of the Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich. He received the Lichtenberg Medal in Gold from the Lower Saxony Academy of Sciences in Göttingen in 2023 for his academic work and science communication.

If Russia Wins was an immediate #1 bestseller upon publication in Germany and has since become a bestseller in the Netherlands. It is forthcoming in fourteen territories around the world.

Andrade, Sebastião



Sebastião Dâmaso de Andrade has a background in Psychology and Political Science, specializing in Political Psychology, communication, body language and human behaviour. His work explores how psychological predispositions, evolutionary mechanisms, nonverbal cues and styles of communication shape social perception, political attitudes and collective behaviour. His current research connects personality, ideology, political disenchantment and the psychological foundations of receptivity to rupture-oriented political messages. Alongside his academic work, he is involved in cultural and entrepreneurial projects related to event production and digital solutions.

Barbosa, Suzi



Suzi Barbosa is a Bissau-Guinean politician, currently a member of the Spain-Africa Strategic Council since 2025. She served as Special Advisor to the President of the Republic, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, for Foreign Policy from 2023 to 2024. She was Minister of State and Foreign Affairs from 2019 to 2023, having been appointed Minister four times. Previously, she served as Secretary of State for International Cooperation from 2015 to 2016. Before that, she was the Diplomatic and Political Advisor to Prime Minister Aristides Gomes from 2018 to 2019. She was an elected Member of Parliament for three terms and also President of the Women Parliamentarians Network of Guinea-Bissau.

She is a PhD candidate in African Studies in Portugal. In 2025, she was decorated by the Spanish government with the Order of Merit "Isabel la Católica". Suzi Barbosa was a member of parliament and President of the Women Parliamentarians Network of Guinea-Bissau.

Bento, Vítor



Vítor Bento, holds a degree in Economics, a Master's in Philosophy (Philosophy of Action,) a PhD in Strategic Studies, and a Certificate (from INSEAD) in Corporate Governance.

He is currently Chairman of the Portuguese Banking Association, Member of the Audit Board of the Catholic University of Portugal – where he is also a Visiting Full Professor; Member of the Board of the PWN (Professional Women Network) Lisbon; and Member of the General Council of the Portuguese Institute of Corporate Governance; among other positions. In the

past he held various executive and non-executive positions in several companies, led the Directorate-General of the Treasury and the Debt Management Agency (IGCP), served as Director of the Bank of Portugal, participated in European Union bodies representing Portuguese official institutions, and was executive director of the Monetary Authority of Macao. He was also a member of the (Portugal's) Council of State (2009–2016). He has taught at several Portuguese universities, mostly matters related with Economics and Finance, and is the author of various books on Economics, European Affairs, and Strategy, as well as a commentator on economic and financial issues.

Calléja, Lucie



Lucie Calléja is Doctor in International Relations, Security and Defense (PhD) at the Institute for Political Studies of Universidade Católica Portuguesa (IEP-UCP) and researcher at the Research Centre of the Institute for Political Studies (CIEP). She completed her PhD in 2024 and was Research Fellow at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) between 2021 and 2024. She completed the MA in Governance Leadership and Democracy Studies at IEP-UCP in 2017 and obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Université Lumière Lyon II (France) in 2015. In 2021, she joined the Research Line 'Peace and Civil Society' (LIPSC) of the CIEP (IEP-UCP). Her research interests focus on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, particularly in Africa, with a specific emphasis on community-based initiatives and women's participation. She is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Integral Human Development (CADOS-UCP) and Invited Professor at Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

Cantalapiedra, David García



David García Cantalapiedra, PhD, in Political Science with Honors (UCM). He is Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science of the Complutense University of Madrid, where he has taught Strategic Studies, US Foreign Policy, and International Relations in the Asia–Pacific region for more than twenty years.

He has also served as Lecturer on US Foreign Policy at the Spanish Diplomatic School, as well as lecturer in the General Staff Course at the Spanish Armed Forces School and in the National Defence Course at CESEDEN.

He was Senior Analyst on U.S. Foreign Policy and Transatlantic Relations at the Elcano Royal Institute (2007–2009); between 2008 and 2011 worked for NATO in Afghanistan and on NATO nuclear policy. He subsequently served as a 2012 U.S. State Department Fellow and later as Loyola Visiting Professor at Ateneo de Manila University and Visiting Professor at the UN University for Peace in Manila (2013–14). He later became 2017 European Union Center Fellow in Singapore. Later he worked for 2018 Spanish National Commission on Immigration and on different projects on Terrorism, Organized crime and North Africa and Sahel.

He is currently Director of the Complutense Group for International and Strategic Studies, and for US Foreign Policy Strategic Observatory at Franklin Institute in Alcalá University.

Caria, Catarina



Catarina Caria is a foreign affairs analyst, Queen's University Canada fellow, a seasoned public speaker, host/moderator with a strong emphasis on European and Transatlantic Affairs, Security & Defence, and Governance. She's a former political advisor to the XXV and XXIV Governments of Portugal and a Fulbright/FLAD scholar in the United States. Catarina has worked in Brussels, for the world's leading think tank on peace metrics - Institute for Economics and Peace - and has a vast experience in Public Diplomacy, having worked for several diplomatic missions in Portugal. She holds a Master's Degree in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies and a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Affairs. Catarina serves as an Advisory Board Member at IPDAL.

Chachava, Ketevan



Ketevan (Kate) Chachava is a Georgian civic activist, strategic communications expert, and democracy advocate with nearly two decades of experience in civil society leadership, public engagement, election observation, and democratic resilience. She is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Development and Democracy (CDD) and a Non-Resident Fellow with the Democratic Resilience Program at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). Her work focuses on strengthening democratic participation, strategic communication, civic education, media literacy, and supporting Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Over the years, she has led and contributed to numerous initiatives related to election integrity, civil society development, youth engagement, and countering disinformation in increasingly polarized environments. Ketevan is also a Steering

Committee member of the World Movement for Democracy and regularly participates in international conferences, policy discussions, and forums addressing democracy, security, and resilience.

Espírito Santo, Márcio



As a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science and International Relations: Security and Defense at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, my academic work focuses on euro-atlantic relations, international security, geoeconomics, and the evolving dynamics of global order, with particular interest in EU-U.S. relations. I have also developed research on migration, border governance, and European integration. Beyond academia, I am interested in music, sports, and technology.

Kanchaveli, Archil



Prof. Archil Kanchaveli is a Georgian technology entrepreneur, cybersecurity expert, and university executive with extensive experience in innovation, digital transformation, and international academic cooperation. He currently serves as Vice Rector of Saint Andrew the First-Called Georgian University of the Patriarchate of Georgia (SANGU), where he oversees international relations, strategic partnerships, and program development. Archil holds academic degrees in mathematical modeling, cybersecurity, and information technologies, and has spent nearly two decades leading successful initiatives in the technology and private sectors. He is the founder of several technology startups in Georgia and has been actively engaged in fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and international partners. His current work focuses on advancing innovation-driven education, strengthening

international university partnerships, and supporting the development of cybersecurity and technology programs in Georgia in cooperation with leading global institutions.

Koç, Haldun



Haldun Koç took office as Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Lisbon in April 2024. He is a career diplomat who held different positions at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and on missions abroad: at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations in Vienna; at the Consulate-General in Plovdiv, Bulgaria; at the Embassy in Athens, Greece; at the Consulate-General in Barcelona, Spain; and as Ambassador to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Leal de Faria, Luís



Luís Leal de Faria holds a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the Institute for Political Studies at Universidade Católica Portuguesa (IEP Católica), as well as a MSc in Finance and an BSc in Economics from Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE). He is an Invited Assistant Professor at IEP Católica and a researcher at its Research Centre (CIEP). He currently serves as Adviser to the Portuguese Government Task Force for State Reform. His previous professional experience includes roles as Teaching Assistant at Nova SBE, Economist at the Portuguese Securities Market Commission (CMVM), Adviser at the Bank of Portugal, and Trainee at the European Central Bank.

Sager, Abdulaziz



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager - A Saudi strategic expert specializing in international politics and regional security issues, he is the Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center. Dr. Sager has also been a visiting professor at a number of universities, and member of various councils, advisory and academic committees, institutes and international research centers. He participates in international and regional conferences that address issues pertaining to the Gulf region. Notably, he has authored and edited numerous publications and has many articles in local and international newspapers related to Gulf affairs and regional issues, and he frequently contributes to major international media outlets. He is also the editor-in-chief of "Araa" a monthly Arabic-language magazine focused on Gulf affairs and is the editor-in-chief of "The Gulf Yearbook." Dr. Sager holds a PhD in politics and international relations from Lancaster University.

Samões, Orlando



Orlando Samões (PhD and MA, IEP – Universidade Católica Portuguesa, BA in Economics, Nova School of Business and Economics - UNL) is associate professor of the Institute for Political Studies, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, where he serves as Coordinator of the BA Programme in Political Science and International Relations (IEP-UCP) and as the editor-in-chief of *Nova Cidadania* - Quarterly Journal. He has been teaching also the courses of 'political science' and 'contemporary political thought' as guest professor at Católica School of Business and Economics, Lisbon. His thesis on Adam Smith won the Novak Award 2021 attributed by the Acton Institute for his "outstanding scholarly research concerning the relationship between religion, economic freedom, and the free and virtuous society".

ESTORIL POLITICAL FORUM

34TH EDITION EST. 1993

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