

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Tena Prelec

PRESENT POSITIONS:

Research Fellow, Kleptocracy & Anti-Kleptocracy, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

Region Head & Senior Analyst, Eastern Europe, Oxford Analytica, UK

Fellow, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Rijeka, Croatia

EDUCATION:

- PhD University of Sussex (Politics, 2016-2020)
Title: “The transition game: The persistence of elites and extractive practices in the energy sector in successor Yugoslav states.” Supervisors: Prof Aleks Szczerbiak and Prof Elizabeth David-Barrett. Examiners: Dr Abigail Innes (LSE) and Dr Francis McGowan (Sussex).
- MSc University of Sussex (Social Research Methods, 2015-2016).
Distinction.
- LLM Birkbeck, University of London (Master of Laws QLD, 2012-2015). High Merit.
- MA University College London (Central and South East European Studies, 2009-2010). High Merit.
Supervisors: Professor Eric Gordy & Dr Rigels Halili.
- BA University of Trieste, Italy (Translation and Interpreting, 2004-2008). Main languages: Russian, English and Arabic. 110/110 cum laude.
- Maturità classica Liceo Classico Dante Alighieri, Trieste, Italy (1999-2004).
High school diploma with specialisation in humanities (with Ancient Greek, Latin, Natural Sciences, etc.). 100/100.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & POSITIONS HELD:

Research Associate, LSEE–Research on South Eastern Europe, European Institute, LSE
January 2017 – present

Member, BiEPAG (Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group)
September 2018 – present

Member, Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group (AFIWG)
September 2020 – present

Country Expert (Croatia), Freedom House, Washington DC (from remote)
August 2017 – August 2021

Fellow, Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption, World Economic Forum.
September 2019 – September 2020

RCUK & UKRI Fellow, SPICe, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
January 2018 – March 2018

Editor, EUROPP – European Politics and Policy & BPP – British Politics and Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, London
September 2015 – June 2018

Research unit manager, LSEE – Research on South Eastern Europe, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science, London
August 2013 – December 2016

Researcher, LSE Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, London
August 2015 – January 2016

Communications Manager, ESOP Centre, London
January 2012 – March 2013

Director for Human Resources & Network, European Students' Forum (AEGEE-Europe), elected to a one-year mandate as part of the 'Comité Directeur' of the whole organisation, Brussels
August 2008 – August 2009

GRANTS & AWARDS:

Winner, with team of co-authors: 'Fair, Just and Inclusive Society Award 2022', Knowledge Exchange Awards, University of Exeter. October 2022.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Marshall Memorial Fellowship (the GMF's flagship leadership development program), 2020-2022.

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) programme. Research on the Western 'enablers' of corruption, 2019-2021; on information manipulation and organised crime, 2022-2023; and on Russian foreign policy and illicit financial flows, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

PSSI (Prague Institute of Security Studies), Research funding, 2019 – 2021. Research into external actors' influence & corrosive capital in South East Europe.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), PhD studentship, 2015-2019

Research Councils UK (RCUK) Parliamentary Fellowship, January-March 2018

'Hristina Cipusheva' best paper award, Annual Conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network, Sarajevo, May 2017.

University of Oxford (DPIR) bursary – Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, March 2017 (Social Network Analysis & Process Tracing)

Council of Europe Award for Young Leaders – Moscow training, (Российский университет дружбы народов), June-August 2008

University of Trieste & Moscow State University joint award for the best Russian language student, 2006-2007

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

Forthcoming:

Prelec, T. and Soares de Oliveira, R., “Enabling African Loots: Tracking the laundering of Nigerian kleptocrats’ ill-gotten gains in the UK”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*. Approved for publication (January 2023).

Heathershaw, J., Mayne, T., Prelec, T., “Transnational Kleptocracy: the manipulation of the international anti-money laundering regime by post-Soviet kleptocrats and their UK enablers”. *Review of International Political Economy*. Reviewers’ feedback (July 2022): revise & resubmit. Expected publication: 2023.

Prelec, T., “Captured islands, captured mountains: Local vulnerabilities and exposure to illicit financial flows originating from kleptocracies. Evidence from Croatia”. Presented at European International Studies Association (EISA), 15th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, Athens, September 2022. Expected publication: 2023.

Published:

Cooley, A., Prelec, T. and Heathershaw, J. (2022), “[Foreign Donations in the Higher Education Sector of Open Societies in the United States and the United Kingdom: Pathways for Reputation Laundering](#)”, *Journal of Comparative & International Higher Education*, 14(5), 43-79.

Prelec, T., Heathershaw, J., Furstenberg, S. and Thomson, C. (2022), “[Is academic freedom threatened by internationalisation? Results from a 2020 survey of UK social scientists](#)”, in *International Journal of Human Rights*.

Prelec, T. (2020), “[The Vicious Circle of Corrosive Capital, Authoritarian Tendencies and](#)

[State Capture in the Western Balkans](#)", *Journal of Regional Security*, 15:2, pp. 167–198.

Prelec, T. (2019), "[The Serbian Diaspora's Political Views: A Study on the 2017 Serbian Presidential Election](#)", *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 21(1), pp. 74-89

Bartlett, W., Ker-Lindsay, J.; Prelec, T. and Alexander, K. (2017), "[The UAE as an Emerging Actor in the Western Balkans: The Case of Strategic Investment in Serbia](#)", *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 7(1), pp. 94-112

Book chapters:

Prelec, T. and Bojanić, S. (2022), "Croatia: Breaking Fragile Trust" in [Governments' Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic in Europe: Navigating the Perfect Storm](#), Kennet Lynggard, Mads Dagnis Jensen and Michael Klut eds., Palgrave Studies in European Union Politics, Palgrave.

Prelec, T. (2021), "The Guptas"; "Obiang"; "Erdogan's Cronies"; Jack Abramoff", in [Understanding Corruption: How Corruption Works in Practice](#), Dan Hough, Liz David-Barrett, Robert Barrington and Sam Power eds., Agenda Publishing. US edition: [Columbia University Press](#). (Four sole-authored chapters examining state capture in South Africa by the hands of the Gupta brothers and the Zuma family; kleptocracy and asset recovery in relation to Obiang's regime in Equatorial Guinea; cronyism under Erdogan in Turkey; and lobbying in the United States).

Tzifakis, N. and Tena Prelec. (2021), "From mask to vaccine diplomacy: Geopolitical competition in South East Europe during the Covid19 crisis", in [The Pandemic in the Balkans: Geopolitics and Democracy at Stake](#), ISPI – Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale. Milan: Ledizioni-LediPublishing, pp. 12-33.

Prelec, T. (2020), "Foreign Direct Investment in the Balkans: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", in [The Balkans: New, Old Instabilities. A European Region Looking for its Place in the World](#), ISPI – Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale. Milan: Ledizioni-LediPublishing, pp. 96-113

Prelec, T. and Bartlett, W. (2019), "UAE: Sultanism Meets Illiberal Democracy", in [The Western Balkans in the World: Linkages and Relations with Non-Western Countries](#), Florian Bieber and Nikolaos Tzifakis eds., Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge.

Prelec, T. (2019), "The Serbian Diaspora's Political Views", in [Migration in the Western Balkans: What do we know?](#), Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge, ISBN: 978-0-367-42512-8

Prelec, T. (2015), "Measuring Corruption in Transition Countries: How to Go beyond Perceptions? A Review of Perception-Related Problems and of New Approaches", in *Western Balkans Integrating the EU: Challenges, Policies, Issues*, Xavier Richet and Srđan Redžepagić eds., Paris: CEMAFI International,

pp. 244-258

Book projects:

Heathershaw, J., Tena Prelec, and Thomas Mayne, *Professional Indulgences: How the UK services kleptocracy and empowers kleptocratic regimes*. Oxford University Press (contract signed; first draft almost finished). Expected publication: 2024.

Prelec, T., *The Technomanagers: Yugoslavia's Pre-Capitalism Capitalists*. (Expanded and elaborated material from my PhD thesis: currently in talks with Bristol University Press about turning it into a book.)

Policy studies (selected):

Prelec, T., "[Russian IFF and political influence in South Eastern Europe: How financial flows and politics intersect in Montenegro and Serbia](#)", SOC ACE Research Programme, May 2022.

Owen, C., Prelec, T. and Mayne, T., "[The Illicit Financialisation of Russia's Foreign Policy: Mapping the practices that facilitate Russia's illicit financial flows](#)", SOC ACE Research Programme, Research Paper 3, May 2022.

Prelec, T., Casey Michel, and Tom Mayne, "Exposing Kleptocracy: Why we need more – and better – collaboration among academics, journalists and anti-corruption campaigners" in [Authoritarian Power in the Global Economy, Democracy and Autocracy](#), 20(1), March 2022. (peer reviewed)

Prelec, T., "The Magic Wand of Reputation Laundering: Turning Kleptocrats into 'Engaged Global Citizens'", in [Waking up to Reputation Laundering as a Mechanism for Transnational Kleptocracy](#), National Endowment for Democracy, 20 March 2022. (peer reviewed)

Heathershaw, J., Alexander Cooley, Tom Mayne, Casey Michel, Tena Prelec, Jason Sharman and Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, "[The UK's Kleptocracy Problem: How servicing post-Soviet elites weakens the rule of law](#)", *Chatham House*. December 2021. (peer reviewed)

Prelec, T., Jelena Vasiljević, Vedran Džihić and Marko Kmezić, "[Outta Trust? \(Post\)Pandemic Trust and Democratic Resilience in the Western Balkans](#)", *Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group*. December 2021.

Cooley, A., Prelec, T., Heathershaw, J. and Mayne, T. (2021), "[Paying for a world-class affiliation: Reputation laundering in the university sector of open societies](#)", *National Endowment for Democracy*, May 2021. (peer reviewed)

David-Barrett, L. and Prelec, T. (eds), (2021), "The role of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in influencing the global agenda", Working Paper, *Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC)*, University of Sussex, 2021.

Prelec, T., "[Croatia: Country Report](#)", *Nations in Transit 2021: The Antidemocratic Turn*,

Freedom House. May 2021 (peer reviewed). I have also authored the Nations in Transit reports for [2018](#) and [2020](#).

- Prelec, T. (2021), "[China's influence in the Balkans](#)", in *China in the Broader Black Sea Region*, Brussels: GLOBSEC. March 2021, pp. 27-37.
- Prelec, T. and Jovana Marović, "[No longer voting for the devil you know? Why the Balkans' collective action problem might be easier to break than we think](#)", Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, January 2021. (peer reviewed)
- Prelec, T., "[Eco-monsters & eco-fighters: China's investments in Serbia's heavy manufacturing industry as seen through an environmental lens](#)", Prague Security Studies Institute, January 2021. (peer reviewed)
- Bieber, F., Prelec, T., Jović D., Nechev Z., "[The Suspicious Virus: Conspiracy Theories and Covid19 in the Balkans](#)", Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, December 2020. (peer reviewed)
- Prelec, T. (2020), "['Our brothers', 'our saviours': The importance of Chinese investment for the Serbian government's narrative of economic rebound](#)", Prague Security Studies Institute, October 2020. (peer reviewed)
- Furstenberg, S., Prelec, T. and Heathershaw, J., "[The Internationalization of Universities and the Repression of Academic Freedom](#)", in *Perspectives on "Everyday" Transnational Repression in an Age of Globalization*, edited by N. Schenkan, I. Linzer, S. Furstenberg, and J. Heathershaw, Freedom House, July 2020.
- Prelec, T. (2020), "Croatia – Economy" in [Central and South-Eastern Europe 2021](#), 21st edition, Europa Publications, Routledge.
- Bieber, F., Prelec, T. et al., "[The Western Balkans in Times of the Global Pandemic](#)", Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, April 2020
- Delević, M. and Prelec, T., "[Flatter, faster, fairer – How to revive the political will necessary to make enlargement a success for the Western Balkans and the European Union](#)", Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, January 2020
- Prelec, T., "[Doing Business in the Balkans, UAE Style](#)", in *The Balkans: the West, the East and the Rest*, ISPI – Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, Milan, April 2019
- Marović, J.; Prelec, T., and Kmezić, M., "[Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans: Call for a Revolution against Particularism](#)", Policy Study, Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, January 2019. (peer reviewed)
- Prelec, T., "[The impact of Brexit on Scotland's growth sectors](#)", Scottish Parliament, March 2018

Selected conferences / webinars:

[Waking up to Reputation Laundering as a Mechanism for Transnational Kleptocracy](#), NED, March 2022

[Hearing on “Foreign interference in the Western Balkans”](#), European Parliament, December 2021

[How the UK enables the kleptocrats of Eurasia and weakens its own rule of law](#), Chatham House, December 2021

[Clientelism and state capture in the EU and EU accession countries](#), LSE IDEAS, April 2021

[Investigating Corruption: US versus UK - A Transatlantic Divide?](#), FPC, April 2021

[China in the Broader Black Sea Region](#), GLOBSEC, March 2021

[Can elections bring \(real\) change? Lessons learned and prospects for the Western Balkans](#), SEESOX, University of Oxford, February 2021

[Russia and China in South East Europe](#), LSE IDEAS, October 2020

[Is London the Engine Room of Global Corruption?](#), TBIJ, October 2020

[New Perspectives on EU Enlargement](#), Alpbach Forum, August 2018

TEACHING:

European Politics (School of Law, Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex, advanced undergraduate level). Topics included: elections and voting; deconstructing the nation state; participation and mobilization; political parties and party systems; governments and parliaments; the politics of welfare states; the politics of immigration; and foreign policy in Europe.

Guest lecturer and tutor at: University of Sarajevo & University of Bologna (2022); University of Oxford (2021); University of Belgrade (2020); Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2019). Topics: corruption, governance, EU enlargement, geopolitics, elections, academic writing.

Non-formal education: Trainer for the European Parliament (how to improve the EP’s tools in the Western Balkans), 2021. About 20-30 trainings and workshops for the European Students’ Forum (AEGEE) and the European Youth Forum (YFJ). Topics included: European citizenship; European elections; working with multi-cultural teams; campaigning; management skills.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Reviewing:

Acting as peer reviewer for academic journals, including: *Competition and Change*; *East European Politics*; *Europe-Asia Studies*; *Journal of Regional Security*; *LEQS* (LSE 'Europe in Question' Discussion Paper Series); *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*; as well as an external expert / peer reviewer for Freedom House.

Consultancy:

British Council; Council of Europe; Chemonics International; European Fund for the Balkans; European Parliament; Foreign Relations Committee at the UK House of Commons & UK House of Lords (expert witness); Freedom House; Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC); Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI); LSE Consulting; Oxford Analytica; National Endowment for Democracy (NED); Routledge; S'Bunker; Thomson Reuters.

Project management:

Experience in managing teams and large-scale projects acquired early in my career and developed through my work in academia. Responsibilities included content and strategy, budgeting and finance, HR, PR, logistics, etc. Strong event management skills: I have organised about 40-50 policy and academic events in various roles, many of them as main organiser.

Media:

Commentaries, op-eds and live media appearances in a variety of media outlets, including: Al Jazeera (UK & BiH); Alsat-M TV (North Macedonia); Balkan Insight; BBC (UK); Berria (Basque country); Capital (Bulgaria); Diario de Noticias (Portugal); Dnevnik (Bulgaria); Financial Times (UK); Foreign Policy (USA); Gazeta Prawna (Poland); The Hindu (India); Huffington Post; Il Fatto Quotidiano (Italy); La Stampa (Italy); Monocle (UK); N1 TV (CNN affiliate, Croatia and Serbia); The New York Times (USA); Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (Norway); Novi List (Croatia); Pravda (Slovakia); RAI 1 TV (Italy); Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty; RTL Nieuws (The Netherlands); Shekulli (Albania); Vijesti (BiH); Večernji List (Croatia); Voice of America TV (USA).

SPECIALISED TRAININGS (Corruption research & investigative journalism):

- Forthcoming: CAMS (Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist) certification
- Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ) Summer Conference 2019, Goldsmiths University, London, July 2019
- Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford, March 2017
- CIJ Summer Conference 2017, Goldsmiths University, London, July 2017
- CIJ data journalism training, Goldsmiths University, London, January 2017
- Summer School of Investigative Reporting, BIRN, Novi Sad, August 2010

LANGUAGES:

Native speaker: Italian, Croatian (Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian)

Fluent: English, Russian (TRKI 3 certificate passed with distinction)

Intermediate: French, German

Reading and/or basic speaking skills: Macedonian, Slovene, Spanish, Greek, Arabic.