

8TH EDITION

TOCQUEVILLE CONVERSATIONS
THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACIES
WHAT WOULD TOCQUEVILLE SAY?



June 26-27, 2026

Château de Tocqueville, Cotentin, Normandie

The Conversations were born...



from the convergence of four defining forces: a growing awareness of the profound challenges confronting Western democracies; an urgent civic imperative to discuss both the problems we face and the solutions we must build; the enduring relevance of Alexis de Tocqueville's insights; and the support of the Tocqueville family, who recognized the symbolic significance of gathering at the Château de Tocqueville.

In 2017, against the backdrop of major political upheavals in both Europe and the United States, Laure Mandeville, senior foreign affairs correspondent for *Le Figaro*, joined forces with Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville, President of the Tocqueville Foundation, to create an international forum dedicated to the future of democracy.

The initiative quickly attracted prominent partners on both sides of the Atlantic, including *Le Figaro*, Joshua Mitchell, Professor of Political Theory at Georgetown University, the Atlantic Council, and former Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio. The Normandy Region, the Department of Manche, and the Cotentin Agglomeration—home to the Château de Tocqueville—also became key supporters of the project.

Our mission

Foster a Forum for Ideas at the Château de Tocqueville in order to strengthen and safeguard democratic societies.

Generate Innovative Solutions to transform ideas into practical initiatives capable of addressing the challenges of tomorrow.

Empower the Next Generation to ensure that young people have a meaningful voice in shaping responses to the major issues facing our societies.

The organizers



Operating under the auspices of the Fondation de France, the Tocqueville Foundation is an international organization dedicated to preserving and advancing the intellectual legacy of Alexis de Tocqueville. Its work reflects Tocqueville's belief in the central role of a vibrant civil society, civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy in sustaining free and democratic societies.

LE FIGARO

Founded in 1826 and published in Paris, *Le Figaro* is France's oldest national daily newspaper and one of the country's leading media organizations. In addition to reaching more than ten million unique online visitors each day, it has expanded into television and a broad range of digital and print publications. Its editorial tradition is generally associated with the centre-right. Since 2004, *Le Figaro* has been part of the Dassault Group.



If the great philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville were to return to the West, what would he think? What would he advise?

If the great philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville were to return to the West, what would he think? What would he advise?

If he was returning, Alexis de Tocqueville would discover a democratic Europe in a state of generalized crisis, with deep dissensions and disfunctions within its nations; a Europe on the brink of a war with Russia for which it is not prepared, But also struggling to redefine its relationship with its fast-changing American ally. He would also discover that the American Republic, which he admired so much, is in the throes of a deep democratic crisis, with its citizens starting to hate each other and a leader testing institutions and trying to bend the State in the name of greatness, efficiency, revenge against the elites and its personnel interest. A situation that Tocqueville had foreseen as a clear danger for the democratic regime. In Hungary it has led to what is now called “illiberal democracy”, before triggering a reassuring electoral reaction and a rejection of Viktor Orban’s authoritarian rule. Could this instrumentalization of democracy spread elsewhere, given the strength of the revolutionary mood sweeping our societies?

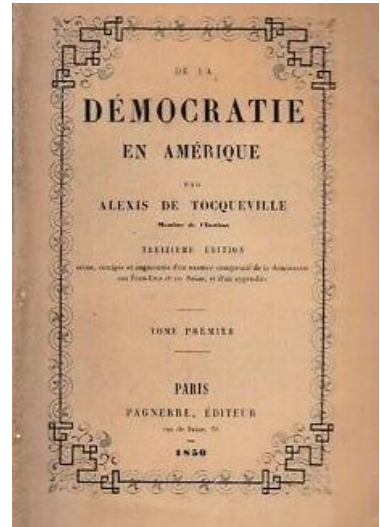
Tocqueville would note that he had been right in declaring that the modern age would be fixated on instituting equality, through a vast array of individual rights now guaranteed to every citizen. He would notice with concern the persistence of wide inequalities, the weakening of our various national compacts and the dangerous dissolution of the mediating institutions – families, churches, civic organizations – that generate the solidarity and trust that hold our nations together.

He would be alarmed by the growth of the administrative state, which he thought would increasingly behave as a gentle despot depriving society of its freedoms in exchange for increasing comfort. But he would also worry paradoxically, about the decline in the care the political class has for everyday citizens and everyday citizens have for each other.

He would be dismayed but not surprised by our flight into addictive and totalizing “imaginary worlds,” in which individuals now live in isolation on the internet. He was the first to see that in the democratic age , individuals would collapse into themselves and completely lose sight of their neighbors, becoming therefore more easily manipulated by the tyranny of the majority and potential tyrants. Tocqueville feared these lonely citizens would have no antidote against irrational passions and petty material pleasures.

Alexis de Tocqueville would certainly have observed with great worry the advance of computer algorithms and artificial intelligence, altogether entertaining and addictive, on the verge of erasing human competence altogether. The Normand philosopher would have warned against the formidable levers that Technology could provide to the Centralized State, authoritarian as well as democratic, to control society. Would he have conceded that the technology could also provide society with instruments to reinforce democracy as Techno-optimists argue?

Faced with the crisis of meaning throughout the West; Tocqueville would wonder whether the malaise could be cured without a revitalized Christianity. Unlike many nineteenth century thinkers, Tocqueville believed that religion was the font of every civilization, and that without it; human life would lose its grandeur and dignity, and nations would lose their animating spirit. He would have been however worried about the rise of religious fundamentalisms, that set the law of God against the freedom of human beings; and would have been concerned with Islamism in the West. Tocqueville expressed worries about Islam, which he thought, would struggle to be compatible with the Democratic age, notably because of a doctrinal global system unable to distinguish between the political and religious realm.



If he was returning, Tocqueville would observe that all European countries are shaken by the tremors of populism that led to the election of Trump in America. He would point at the impotence and greed of elites whose incompetence and denial are largely responsible for these angry eruptions. Human communities must be embodied and lived out in the confines of politically recognized and enforced borders between nations, he would have reminded us. For this man of action, analysis would inevitably call for the search for solutions. These would certainly involve the defense of law and public freedoms, a return to local democracy, the promotion of a renewed sense of civic responsibility, and the reaffirmation of Europe's Christian roots and cultural heritage. Looking at the larger geopolitical picture, Tocqueville would be vindicated in his view that the brewing confrontation of the US and Russia would become a defining issue of our time. He couldn't have anticipated the Chinese-American Thucydide trap, but as Trump seems to continue to dream about a grand deal with Russia, he would remind us that it was always an expansionist war-like power. He would be concerned that America has put its republican form of government at risk by choosing empire over remaining a middle-class commercial republic. Europe having been protected by the American security umbrella since the end of WWII, would Tocqueville now be concerned at the prospect of a war of revenge against the West, waged by a revisionist Russian dictator who still intends to dictate its own terms to Europe, with the support of China? *In the light of his observation that democratic nations do not easily go to war, what are the prospects that European nations will rise to the occasion and create, along with Ukraine, the military power they need to be at the table of the reconfiguration of the world? Or will Europe just be "on the menu" of a new Grand bargain between Great Powers? And where will America, now busy in Iran, stand ? With Russia and China? Or with democratic nations?*

Laure Mandeville
Senior Reporter, *Le Figaro*

Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville
President of the Tocqueville Foundation

Friday, 26 June

10h30 – 11h30

Welcoming Addresses

Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville, President of the Tocqueville Foundation

Laure Mandeville, Senior Reporter, Le Figaro

Benjamin Haddad, Delegate Minister for Europe of France

11h30 – 12h00

Opening Keynote

Boualem Sansal, Writer and Essayist;

followed by a conversation with **Yves Thréard**, Deputy Director of Le Figaro

12h00 – 13h00

Panel 1 - *Why Tocqueville Today ?*

What does Tocqueville tell us about the current dangers our democracies are facing?

Moderator: Perrine Nahum, Historian and Philosopher

Nicolas Baverez, Essayist and Writer

Joshua Mitchell, Professor of Political Theory at Georgetown University

Olivier Zunz, Historian and Professor at the University of Virginia

Lunch

14h10 – 14h30

Keynote - *The Universalism of Tocqueville's Thought and the Defense of Democracy*

Manuel Valls, Former Prime Minister of France

14h30 – 15h30

Panel 2 - *Crisis of Trust Between Citizens and their Leaders*

In 1848, Tocqueville warned of the coming revolution when the trust disappears between the rulers and the ruled. Have we reached such a moment again? Why are national-populist movements and far-right parties advancing almost everywhere in the West? How can we understand the volcano of popular anger, on both the right and the left? What are the effects of uncontrolled immigration on social and political cohesion? Are we facing a profound democratic disaffection, capable of triggering revolutionary but also authoritarian and oligarchic temptations? Why is the questioning of the rule of law one of the key symptoms of this crisis between rulers and the ruled? Mostly, what are the remedies to this crisis of trust?

Moderator: Laure Mandeville, Senior Reporter, Le Figaro

Jérôme Guedj, Member of the French National Assembly

Sarah Knafo, Member of the European Parliament, Reconquête

Aquilino Morelle, Essayist, Former Political Adviser to President Hollande

Malcolm Offord, Leader of Reform UK Scotland

15h30 – 16h30 **Panel 3 - America at 250: Where is America Taking Us Next?**

Tocqueville described America as the gold standard of democracy, without overlooking its shortcomings. But as American democracy celebrates its 250th anniversary, where is it leading the world? What will Trump's legacy be? A “great America”? An illiberal democracy? An authoritarian regime?

Moderator: Andrew Michta, Professor at the University of Florida

Donna Brazile, Former US DNC Chair

Roger Cohen, Columnist at the New York Times

Eliot Cohen, Professor and Former Advisor to the U.S. Department of State

Declan Ganley, CEO, Rivada Networks, Founder, Libertas

Break

17h00 – 18h00 **Panel 4 - Free Speech under Threat**

Tocqueville was acutely aware of the temptation of “right-thinking” in democratic societies—the pressure exerted by prevailing opinion, making it difficult to “break out of the circle” of accepted ideas. Are we facing a similar challenge today? Has the “tyranny of the majority” described by Tocqueville evolved into a tyranny of “horizontal” censors, fueling widespread backlash? Why do societies on both sides of the Atlantic increasingly speak of freedom of expression as being under threat? And why is each political camp convinced that the other is responsible? Does polarization lead to an attempt to silence the voice of the “Other”? How can we safeguard media pluralism without empowering the enemies of democracy?

How should these questions be understood in an age marked by the polarization of social media, the spread of disinformation, the rise of conspiracy theories, and growing difficulty in distinguishing truth from falsehood? What role can the press—whom Tocqueville regarded as one of the essential pillars of democratic societies—play in defending the public sphere? What part does the hybrid warfare waged by certain authoritarian states play in reshaping democratic public discourse? And how should democracies respond?

The United States and Europe are now sharply divided over questions of free speech and regulation. What are the terms of this debate? Who is right? Who should decide what is true or false, dangerous or acceptable to say? What influence do the new technological oligarchs—what Tocqueville might have called a new aristocracy of wealth—exert over our information systems? Are they, in fact, appropriating the very freedom of expression they claim to defend?

Moderator: Richard Werly, Paris Correspondent for the Swiss Media Outlet Blick

Caroline Fourest, Editor-in-Chief and Founder of the media Franc-Tireur, Essayist

Charles Lane, Columnist at The Free Press, Nonresident senior fellow, The American Enterprise Institute

Richard Miniter, CEO of Zenger News

Denis Rapone, Member of the ARCOM (France’s regulatory authority for audiovisual and digital communications)

Panel 5 - Solitude of the Democratic Individual in the Age of the Internet and AI

Tocqueville feared that democratic societies might evolve toward the triumph of an exaggerated individualism, in which people, absorbed in themselves and immersed in material comforts and imaginary worlds, would become detached from their responsibilities as citizens. Has our age confirmed his concerns beyond even his own expectations? Do the virtual worlds of the Internet and the omnipresence of technology encourage a culture of self-centeredness and a growing fragmentation of the social fabric, or do they also generate positive effects?

What impact will algorithms, social media, and artificial intelligence have on democratic citizens? Will they be able to withstand these transformations? Are younger generations being weakened by the pervasive presence of technology?

Could this technological dominance give rise to a form of technological Caesarism, using individualism as a means to undermine democracy and our condition as free citizens? How should we assess the impact of artificial intelligence on different political systems, whether democratic or authoritarian?

What is the best way to address the challenge posed by artificial intelligence? Can Europe afford to limit itself to regulation? How can it close its technological gap and help shape the technological transformation underway across the world? Or is it destined to remain a bystander in the emerging strategic competition between the United States and China?

Moderator: Bérénice Levet, Philosopher

Baptiste Detombe, Parliamentary Official, Essayist and Founder of the Media Gavroche

Michael Hochberg, Chairman of the Board, Mackinder Forum, Visiting Scholar, Cambridge Center for Geopolitics

Riccardo Pozzo, Professor of the History of Philosophy, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Edouard Tetreau, Executive Adviser and Columnist, Le Figaro

Saturday, 27 June

09h00 – 09h45 **Opening Keynote – *How Can Europe Overcome Its Crises?***

Dialogue between

Bernard Cazeneuve, Former Prime Minister of France,

And **Enrico Letta**, Former Prime Minister of Italia,

Moderated by **Anne-Elisabeth Moutet**, Journalist, The Daily Telegraph

09h45 – 10h00 **Keynote - *Tocqueville and Nature: An Environmental Philosopher?***

Gaspard Koenig, Novelist, Essayist and Philosopher

10h00 – 11h00 **Panel 6 - *Local Democracy: A School of Civic Responsibility***

Tocqueville's work is a vast meditation on civic spirit. Human beings cannot fully flourish unless they are fully citizens. How can this sense of "public spirit" be restored and fostered? How can respect for the individual be reconciled with the requirements of citizenship?

Political education, the multiplication of associations, local democracy, and the broadening of political rights were the remedies Tocqueville envisioned. Freedom remains the central political principle from which other democratic principles drive.

Moderator: **Britta Sandberg**, Der Spiegel's Europe Correspondent

Fabien Aufrechter, Mayor of Verneuil

Monica Frassoni, Former MEP, President of EUASE and ECES (European Center for Electoral Support)

Vincent Maître, Member of the National Council of Switzerland

Bill O'Dowd, CEO and Founder, Dolphin Entertainment, Member of the United Way Leadership Committee

Break

11h20 – 12h30 **Panel 7 – *Religion and Democracy***

Tocqueville believed religion to be a central pillar of democracy in America and in Europe. He would have been worried by its growing invisibility in our Western societies. Can Christianity rebound and can Christian heritage help our secularized societies find meaning and balance? How can a shared spiritual and cultural heritage be affirmed and transmitted within pluralistic societies? What challenges raises Islam - now the second religion in Europe, which doesn't establish a clear separation between politics and religion, for our democratic societies?

Moderator: **Ana Palacio**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

Ferghane Azihari, Essayist and Le Figaro Columnist

Marek Cichocki, Philosopher and Political Theology Scholar

Jean-François Colosimo, Historian of Religion, Essayist, and CEO of Éditions du Cerf

Bernard Rougier, Political Scientist and Specialist in Political Islam

Lunch

14h00 – 14h30 **Keynote – *Tocqueville and France in the world***

Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Former Member of the French National Assembly and Former Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

14h30 – 15h15 **Conversation - *Passing on the Legacy of the Great Texts***

Why do we still read Tocqueville, Montesquieu, Arendt or Orwell? What do we learn from the Great texts ? Why is cultural transmission so crucial to the survival and success of our democracies? Is the society of immediate information in the process of destroying the society of knowledge? How can we transmit our intellectual heritage in the era of social media and artificial intelligence?

Moderator: Katja Gentinetta, Political Philosopher

François-Xavier Bellamy, Member of the European Parliament, Les Républicains

Michel Onfray, Philosopher

Break

15h45 – 17h00 **Panel 8 - *Europe between the Imperative of Power and the Rule of Law***

While pointing to democracies' reluctance to wage war, Tocqueville believed nations must be ready to use power to defend their interests and prepare their people for war. As Europe is caught between Putin's war and American imperial unilateralism, the need for an urgent military build up and a common European defense capability has never been stronger. Europe must recognize the life and death test posed by war in Ukraine and the moral imperative behind it, by defending a just definition of peace. The case for a Europe-Ukraine military alliance and the need to build-up a common defense industrial base has never been clearer. How do we organize it urgently? How to maintain a pragmatic and balanced cooperation with the United States in the Trump era? What is the stake of the war in Iran for Europe? What link and interaction between the conflict in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine ?

Moderator: Céline Marangé, Researcher at the IRSEM

Karim Emile Bitar, Professor of International Relations, Sciences Po, IRIS

Camille Grand, Former NATO Assistant Secretary General

Gabrielius Landsbergis, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Olexander Scherba, Ambassador of Ukraine to South Africa

17h00 – 17h30 **Conclusion**

Two Students' Perspectives on the Conversations

As Tocqueville himself observed, democracy cannot endure without the active participation of its citizens. Convinced that democracy is a living system sustained by civil society, and that democratic engagement must be learned, nurtured, and passed on, the Tocqueville Foundation places the transmission of democratic values to younger generations at the heart of its mission.

Entrusting the closing remarks of the Conversations to students gives tangible expression to this conviction. It is not about speaking on behalf of young people, but about ensuring that their voices are heard last, where it matters most. It serves as a powerful reminder that the challenges discussed throughout these Conversations do not belong solely to those shaping decisions today, but equally to the generations that will inherit their consequences tomorrow.

WELCOMING ADDRESSES



Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville

President and Founder of the Tocqueville Foundation

Jean-Guillaume de Tocqueville devotes a significant part of his work to promoting the intellectual legacy of Alexis de Tocqueville, notably through the Tocqueville Foundation, which he founded and chairs. Through the Tocqueville Conversations, he fosters a transatlantic dialogue on democracy, human rights, and philanthropy.

A member of both the Paris and New York Bars since 1990, he has built his career in mergers and acquisitions and investment banking. Since January 2025, he has served as Secretary General of the High Legal Committee for the Paris Financial Centre.

Laure Mandeville
Senior Reporter, *Le Figaro*



Laure Mandeville has been a senior correspondent for *Le Figaro* for thirty-six years. She served as *Le Figaro*'s Washington Bureau Chief from December 2008 to August 2016. Laure Mandeville joined the newspaper's foreign affairs desk in 1989 to cover the end of communism and served as Moscow Bureau Chief from 1997 to 2000. She also covered Islam in Europe from 2001 to 2008.

She holds degrees in Russian and Polish languages and civilizations from the University of Toulouse, from the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), and a postgraduate degree in Soviet Studies. She was a Fulbright and Sachs Scholar at Harvard University in 1986–1987.

Laure Mandeville is the author of *Who Is Donald Trump, Really?* (Les Équateurs, 2016) and *The Russian Reconquest* (Grasset, 2008), which received both the Louis Pauwels Prize and the Vauban Prize in 2009. She is a regular guest on *C dans l'Air*, BFM TV, and France 24. She also contributes to *Politique Internationale*, *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The American Interest*. Laure Mandeville is a non-resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council and one of the co-founders of the Tocqueville Conversations.

Benjamin Haddad
**Delegate Minister for
Europe of France**



Benjamin Haddad serves as Minister Delegate for Europe attached to the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris and HEC Paris, and a specialist in international relations, he taught at Sciences Po before spending several years in Washington working with a number of American think tanks, notably as Director of the Europe Center at the Atlantic Council between 2019 and 2022.

Elected as a Member of Parliament for Paris in 2022 and re-elected in 2024, he serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee and focuses particularly on European, transatlantic, and defence issues. The author of *Paradise Lost: Trump's America and the End of European Illusions*, he regularly contributes to public debate on relations between Europe and the United States, European sovereignty, and international security.

Since 2024, he has served as Minister for Europe in the successive governments of Michel Barnier, François Bayrou, and Sébastien Lecornu.

OPENING KEYNOTE

Yves Thréard
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Le Figaro*



Yves Thréard is a political journalist, editorialist, and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Le Figaro*, a position he has held since 2000. After studying law and literature, he began his career at *Le Dauphiné Libéré* before becoming a correspondent in East Africa for the Voice of America. He subsequently joined *France-Soir* as a senior reporter and later became Editorial Director. At *Le Figaro*, he established himself as one of the leading observers of French political life and the institutions of the Fifth Republic. A frequent contributor to television and radio programs, he has for many years taken part in public debates on political and constitutional issues. He also hosted the program *Les Grands Entretiens* on LCP-Assemblée nationale. A lecturer at Sciences Po, he received the Roland-Dorgelès Prize for his journalistic work.

Boualem Sansal
Writer and Essayist



Boualem Sansal is a Franco-Algerian novelist and essayist and one of the leading contemporary figures in French-language literature. Trained as an engineer and holding a doctorate in economics, he served as a senior official in Algeria's Ministry of Industry before devoting himself entirely to writing. He came to prominence in 1999 with *The Barbarians' Oath*, which received several literary awards. His work explores themes of authoritarianism, historical memory, religious fanaticism, and contemporary political transformations. Among his best-known books are *The German Mujahid* and *2084: The End of the World*, which received the Grand Prix du Roman of the Académie française in 2015. Translated into numerous languages, he has also been awarded the Grand Prix de la Francophonie of the Académie française as well as several international distinctions.

PANEL 1 – Why Tocqueville today?

Perrine Nahum
Philosopher, Historian



Perrine Nahum is a historian and philosopher specializing in modern political thought and European intellectual history. Her work focuses on democracy, liberalism, citizenship and the major traditions of Western political thought. A scholar and educator, she regularly participates in conferences and academic forums devoted to political philosophy and intellectual history. She has published numerous books and scholarly contributions on contemporary democratic societies and major European political thinkers. Her research brings together philosophy, history and political theory, with particular attention to liberty, authority and cultural transmission.

Olivier Zunz
Historian, University of Virginia



Olivier Zunz is James Madison Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Virginia and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. A distinguished American historian, he is notably the author of *The American Century*, *Philanthropy in America: A History*, and *Tocqueville: The Man Who Understood Democracy* (2022), which received both the Grand Prix de la Biographie Politique of Le Touquet-Paris-Plage and the Prix de la Biographie Historique de Brantôme. A leading specialist of Tocqueville, he has also edited several editions and volumes devoted to Tocqueville's thought. Olivier Zunz was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and served as a visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Our speakers

Nicolas Baverez
Writer and Essayist



Nicolas Baverez is a French lawyer, historian, and economist. A former student of the École Normale Supérieure (1980) and the École Nationale d'Administration (1988), he holds the agrégation in economics and social sciences as well as a doctorate in history.

He began his career at the French Court of Auditors in 1988 before serving as adviser to Philippe Séguin, President of the National Assembly, from 1993 to 1995. Admitted to the Paris Bar in 1998, he practiced economic public law, notably at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP for eighteen years, before joining August Debouzy as a partner in 2023.

An influential essayist, he is the author of numerous books, including *Violence and Passions* (2018), recipient of the Vauban Prize, and *Democracies Against Authoritarian Empires* (2023). A regular columnist for *Le Figaro* and *Le Point*, he serves on the editorial board of *Commentaire* and on the governing board of the Institut Montaigne, where he chairs the Foreign Affairs and Defence Working Group.

Joshua Mitchell
Professor of Political Theory, Georgetown University



Dr. Joshua Mitchell is Professor of Political Theory at Georgetown University. He previously served as Chair of the Department of Government and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. From 2008 to 2010, he was Acting Chancellor of the American University of Iraq–Sulaimani.

He has published widely in *The Review of Politics*, *The Journal of Politics*, *The Journal of Religion*, *APSR* and *Political Theory*. His book *Tocqueville in Arabia: Dilemmas in a Democratic Age* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2013. His forthcoming book is entitled *The Gentle Seduction of Tyranny*.

In addition to his academic work, he writes extensively on contemporary American politics and is a committed advocate for environmental protection.

KEYNOTE - The Universalism of Tocqueville's Thought and the Defense of Democracy

Manuel Valls
Former Prime Minister of
France



Manuel Valls is a French-Spanish statesman and former Prime Minister of France, serving from 2014 to 2016 under President François Hollande. Born in Barcelona, he entered French political life after studying history at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

A close ally of Michel Rocard early in his career, he became Mayor of Évry in 2001 and was elected to the National Assembly for Essonne in 2002.

He served as Minister of the Interior from 2012 to 2014 before being appointed Prime Minister. His political career has been marked by issues of security, secularism, state reform, and democratic governance. After leaving Matignon, he ran for Mayor of Barcelona and subsequently served on the city council between 2019 and 2021.

The author of several political essays, he regularly contributes to European public debate on institutional issues, international relations, and the future of Western democracies. More recently, he returned to the French government as Minister of State for Overseas Territories between 2024 and 2025, where he notably led negotiations on the institutional future of New Caledonia.

PANEL 2 – Crisis of Trust Between Citizens and their Leaders



Jérôme Guedj

Member of the French National Assembly

Jérôme Guedj is a French Member of Parliament representing the Essonne department and an Inspector General of Social Affairs. A long-standing figure in French public life, he began his political career within the Socialist Party in the 1990s, working alongside Jean-Luc Mélenchon and Julien Dray. He has held several local and national leadership positions, notably serving as President of the Essonne Departmental Council from 2011 to 2015.

A specialist in social policy and public health, he serves on the Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. He is a regular contributor to public debates on pensions, social welfare, and democratic institutions. A prominent voice of the French republican left, he frequently participates in major political and media discussions.



Sarah Knafo

Member of the European Parliament

Born in Seine-Saint-Denis, Sarah Knafo is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and the French National School of Administration (ENA). She served as a magistrate at the Court of Auditors and held positions in the prefectures of Seine-Saint-Denis and Pyrénées-Atlantiques, as well as at the French Embassy in Libya.

Since 2024, she has been a Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN) group. As part of her parliamentary work, she sits on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). She recently served as rapporteur for a report on European technological sovereignty.



Aquilino Morelle

Essayist and former Advisor of President François Hollande

A physician by training and a graduate of ENA, Aquilino Morelle advised successive Socialist governments, serving first as political adviser to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin (1997–2002) and later as senior adviser to President François Hollande at the Élysée Palace (2012–2014).

Drawing on his experience at the highest levels of government, he has developed a critical analysis of French democratic life over the past four decades. He is the author of several essays published by Grasset, the most recent of which, *France in the Mirror of America: How Progressives Can Defeat Populism*, was released in January 2026.

Malcolm Offord
Leader of Reform UK
Scotland



Lord Offord of Garvel (Malcolm Offord MSP) is a Scottish businessman and politician. He served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Scotland Office from October 2021 and was appointed the United Kingdom's Minister for Exports in April 2023.

Following the 2024 UK general election, he joined the opposition benches in the House of Lords as Conservative spokesperson on energy and net-zero policies. In December 2025, he left the Conservative Party to join Reform UK and was appointed Leader of Reform UK Scotland in January 2026.

He subsequently led Reform UK Scotland into the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections while standing as a candidate in Inverclyde. Although the party won no constituency seats, Reform UK Scotland secured seventeen Members of the Scottish Parliament through the regional list vote, tying Scottish Labour for second place.

Before entering politics, Lord Offord founded the family investment office Badenoch & Co. in 2013.

PANEL 3 – America at 250: Where is it taking us?

Andrew Michta
Professor, University of Florida



Andrew A. Michta is a Senior Fellow with the GeoStrategy Initiative at the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security of the Atlantic Council. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University and specializes in international security, NATO affairs, and European political and security issues.

He is the author of several influential works, including *The Limits of Alliance: The United States, NATO and the EU in North and Central Europe* (2006). His most recent book, co-authored with Paal Hilde, *The Future of NATO: Regional Defense and Global Security*, was published in 2014. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Donna Brazile
Former Chair of the Democratic National Committee



Donna Brazile is the former Chair of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, an ABC News Contributor, veteran political strategist, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, and the former King Endowed Chair in Public Policy at Howard University. She has twice served as interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Brazile founded the DNC's Voting Rights Institute and has also served as Vice Chair for Civic Engagement and Voter Protection. In 2000, she managed Al Gore's presidential campaign making her the first African American to manage a major presidential campaign. She has lectured at more than 260 colleges and universities on a variety of topics, including women in leadership, restoring civility in American politics and restoring trust in American politics. Brazile is the author of several books, including "*Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House.*"



Eliot A. Cohen
Professor and Former Adviser to the US Department of State

Eliot A. Cohen holds the Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and is Professor Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University, where he taught for twenty-four years and directed the School of Advanced International Studies.

His government service includes advising the U.S. Department of State between 2007 and 2009. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Hollow Crown* (2019), *The Big Stick* (2017), and *Supreme Command* (2002), and is a contributing editor at *The Atlantic*.

His forthcoming book, *The Strategic Heart: How to Think Like a Strategist*, will be published by Princeton University Press in October 2026.

Roger Cohen

Journalist and Columnist, The New York Times



Roger Cohen is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has spent more than three decades at The New York Times as a foreign correspondent, foreign editor, columnist, and currently Paris Bureau Chief. In 2023, he received both a Pulitzer Prize and a George Polk Award as part of Times teams covering the war in Ukraine, followed by a second Polk Award in 2024 for coverage of the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Before joining The New York Times, he worked for The Wall Street Journal and Reuters. He is the author of five books, including the memoir *The Girl from Human Street: A Jewish Family Odyssey* and *An Affirming Flame: Meditations on Life and Politics*.

In 2021, he was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, France's highest order of merit, in recognition of his four decades of journalistic work. Born in London and raised in South Africa and England, he studied History and French at Balliol College, Oxford, and is a naturalized American citizen.

Declan Ganley

**CEO, Rivada Networks,
Founder, Libertas**



Declan Ganley is an Irish entrepreneur specializing in telecommunications and secure communications technologies. Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Rivada Networks, he has created and developed several companies in the fields of wireless networks, digital infrastructure and secure communications across Europe and the United States. He also leads Rivada Space Networks, which is developing a satellite constellation designed to provide secure communications services for government, commercial and strategic users.

Alongside his entrepreneurial activities, he has been actively involved in European public affairs. In 2008, he founded the Libertas movement, initially created to campaign during the Irish referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon. Libertas subsequently evolved into a pan-European political movement that fielded candidates in several countries during the 2009 European Parliament elections. The movement advocated greater transparency, democratic accountability and stronger citizen oversight of European institutions.

PANEL 4 – Free Speech under Threat

Richard Werly

Paris Correspondant, Blick



Journalist and essayist Richard Werly currently serves as France and Europe correspondent for the Swiss media outlet *Blick*, following a long career at *Le Temps*. He has been posted in Bangkok, Tokyo, Brussels, and Geneva.

A frequent commentator on LCI, BFM TV, France Info, Arte, France 24, TV5 Monde, LCP, Public Sénat and RTL, he received the prestigious Jean Dumur Prize in 2020.

His books include *Europe: Relighting the Stars* (2020), an essay on Europe's divisions and aspirations, and *That America Which Hates Us*, an exploration of the darker side of transatlantic relations. Through encounters with MAGA supporters, he examines how perceptions of Europe have evolved in the United States since the Trump years.



Caroline Fourest

Editor-in-Chief and Founder of the media Franc-Tireur, Essayist

Caroline Fourest is an essayist, author, editor and filmmaker. She has taught at Sciences Po Paris and is widely recognized for her work on extremism, equality, universalism, and freedom of expression.

Her books have received numerous awards and have been translated into multiple languages. A former journalist for *Têtu* and *Charlie Hebdo*, she currently serves as Editorial Director of *Franc-Tireur*.

Our speakers



Charles Lane

Journalist, The Free Press, Nonresident senior fellow, The American Enterprise Institute

Charles Lane is Associate Editor of the Editorial Page at *The Washington Post*, where he writes on domestic policy, public affairs, and major issues affecting the United States and the wider world.

From 2009 to 2013, he served as Deputy Editorial Page Editor of *The New York Sun*. He was previously diplomatic correspondent for *The Washington Post* (2000–2007) and worked at *The New Republic* from 1987 to 2000, including as Moscow correspondent from 1991 to 1993.

He is the author of *The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction* (2008).



Richard Minitier

CEO, Zenger News

Richard Minitier is a journalist, essayist, and Director of Zenger Press. A specialist in international affairs and security issues, he has written for major American media outlets including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Forbes*.

The author of several books on U.S. foreign policy, terrorism, and international relations, he is best known for *Losing Bin Laden* and *Shadow War*. His work focuses on strategic affairs, international security, and the geopolitical transformations shaping the contemporary world.



Denis Rapone

Membre of the French Regulatory Authority

Denis Rapone is an Honorary Councillor of State and a member of the Board of the French Regulatory Authority for Audiovisual and Digital Communication (ARCOM). A graduate of Sciences Po Paris and holder of a law degree, he has held numerous senior positions in the fields of justice, media regulation and public administration. After serving as Justice Adviser to French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, he became Director General of the French Broadcasting Authority (CSA) and later a member of the Board of ARCEP, France's electronic communications regulator. Appointed to the High Authority for the Dissemination of Works and the Protection of Rights on the Internet (HADOPI) in 2014, he served as its President from 2018 to 2021 before joining ARCOM upon its creation in 2022. He currently chairs ARCOM's Working Group on the Protection of Rights on the Internet.

PANEL 5 – Solitude of the Democratic Individual in the Age of the Internet and AI

Bérénice Levet **Philosopher**



Bérénice Levet is a philosopher, essayist, and graduate of the École Normale Supérieure of Fontenay-Saint-Cloud. An agrégée in philosophy, she teaches and regularly contributes to French intellectual debates on culture, democracy, transmission, and European identity.

The author of several essays on contemporary cultural transformations, she first gained widespread recognition with *The Imaginary Museum of Hannah Arendt* and *Liberate Us from Feminism and the Ecological Intoxication of the Empty Table*. Her work explores literature, political philosophy, European culture, and the evolution of Western democratic societies.



Baptiste Detombe

Parliamentary Advisor, Founder of Gavroche media

A native of Normandy and a graduate of Sciences Po Bordeaux and the Sorbonne in political philosophy and ethics, Baptiste Detombe founded *Gavroche*, a student opinion media outlet. Currently serving as a parliamentary adviser, he is the author of the acclaimed book *The Dismantled Man: How the Digital Age Consumes Our Lives*, published by Artège with a foreword by Rémi Brague. His work seeks to reconcile ethical philosophy with the rapid development of modern technology.



Michael Hochberg

Chairman of the Board, Mackinder Forum, Visiting Scholar, Cambridge Center for Geopolitics

Michael Hochberg is an entrepreneur, physicist, and investor specializing in advanced technologies and scientific innovation. A former professor and researcher in photonics and semiconductor technologies, he has founded and led several companies in the fields of artificial intelligence, optics, and deep tech.

As Chairman of the MacKinder Forum, he regularly addresses the strategic implications of innovation, technological sovereignty, and the geopolitical transformations driven by emerging technologies. His work sits at the intersection of science, industry, international security, and technology policy.

Riccardo Pozzo

Professor of the History of Philosophy, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences



Riccardo Pozzo is a philosopher, historian of ideas, and Professor of the History of Philosophy at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. A specialist in modern European philosophy, his research explores the relationship between philosophical reflection, cultural innovation, and the transformation of contemporary societies. After studying at the University of Milan and completing his academic training in Germany, he taught at several institutions, including the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and the University of Verona. From 2012 to 2017, he served as Director of the Department of Human and Social Sciences and Cultural Heritage at Italy's National Research Council (CNR), where he played a leading role in integrating Italy into major European research infrastructures in the humanities and social sciences. A member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Vice President of the International Institute of Philosophy, he is the author of several books on Kant, Hegel, and the history of philosophy, including *History of Philosophy and the Reflective Society* (2021).



Edouard Tetreau

Executive Adviser, Columnist, Le Figaro

Édouard Tétreau has advised business leaders and industrial families since 2005. An essayist and columnist for *Le Figaro* on artificial intelligence and economic affairs, he also chairs *Les Ponts Neufs*, a New York-based forum founded during Barack Obama's first term. He served on the board of the Maison Française at Columbia University from 2010 to 2024. His work focuses on economic transformations, technological innovation, and the future of Western societies.

OPENING KEYNOTE – How Can Europe Overcome Its Crises?



Anne-Elisabeth Moutet

Journalist, The Daily Telegraph

Anne-Elisabeth Moutet is a Franco-British journalist, editorial writer, and columnist for *The Daily Telegraph*. For several decades, she has covered French politics, European affairs, and major social and political developments across the continent.

A frequent commentator in international media, she specializes in relations between France, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Her analyses focus on democratic institutions, cultural change, and the major political debates shaping contemporary Europe.



Bernard Cazeneuve

Former Prime Minister of France

Bernard Cazeneuve is a French statesman who served as Prime Minister of France from 2016 to 2017 under President François Hollande. A lawyer by training and a graduate of Sciences Po Bordeaux, he began his political career in Normandy before being elected to the National Assembly.

He held several major ministerial positions, including Minister for European Affairs, Budget Minister, Minister of the Interior, and Prime Minister. His career has been marked by a focus on public institutions, internal security, and European affairs.

The author of several books on the Republic, the rule of law, and public life, he remains an active voice in debates on democratic governance and international affairs.



Enrico Letta

Former Prime Minister of Italy

Enrico Letta is an Italian statesman and former Prime Minister of Italy, serving from 2013 to 2014. A graduate in political science from the University of Pisa, he became involved in both Italian and European public life at an early stage of his career.

A former leader of Italy's Democratic Party, he also served as President of the Jacques Delors Institute from 2015 to 2021, focusing on European economic, institutional, and political issues.

A leading voice in European affairs, his work explores the future of the European Union, economic sovereignty, transatlantic relations, and the evolution of contemporary democracies.

KEYNOTE – Tocqueville and Nature, an environmental thinker?



Gaspard Koenig

Philosopher, essayist and writer

Gaspard Koenig is a French philosopher, essayist, and novelist. A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon and an agrégé in philosophy, he also studied at Columbia University before teaching at Sciences Po.

After working at the French Ministry of Economy and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, he founded the think tank *GenerationLibre* in 2013, dedicated to individual freedom, state reform, and democratic innovation.

The author of more than twenty books and essays, including *The Revolutionary*, *The Geek and the Prophet*, and *The Adventures of Freedom*, his work explores political philosophy, technological change, artificial intelligence, ecology, and individual autonomy. His most recent books, *Humus* and *Agrophilosophy*, examine the relationship between nature, liberty, and ecological transition.

PANEL 6 – Local Democracy: A school of civic responsibility

Britta Sandberg

Europe Correspondant, Der Spiegel



Britta Sandberg is a journalist specializing in international affairs. After studying political science and history at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and Sciences Po Paris, she began her career at SPIEGEL TV in Hamburg.

She later joined *Der Spiegel*, where she led the Foreign Affairs Department from 2010 to 2019, becoming the first woman to head a political department in the magazine's history. From 2019 to 2025, she served as Paris Bureau Chief and France Correspondent. Since October 2025, she has been Senior European Correspondent.

In 2023, she was awarded the rank of Chevalier of the French National Order of Merit.

Fabien Aufrechter **Mayor of Verneuil-sur-Seine**



Since 2020, Fabien Aufrechter has served as Mayor of Verneuil-sur-Seine, in the Yvelines department. At the same time, he holds the position of Vice President for Innovation & Strategy at Vivendi, after previously working at Havas, where he oversaw the group's technology activities.

Passionate about artificial intelligence, Web3, and emerging digital uses, he regularly speaks on technological issues and innovation. Verneuil-sur-Seine is a town of 17,000 inhabitants whose first mayor after the French Revolution was Hervé Clérel de Tocqueville, Alexis de Tocqueville's father. Alexis himself spent part of his childhood there, notably alongside his cousin François-René de Chateaubriand.

In 2020, the municipality gained national attention by organizing one of the first local referendums initiated by a French local authority, leading to the preservation of a regional forest that had been threatened by a road development project, which has since been abandoned.

Monica Frassoni

President of EUAse and ECES (European Center for Electoral Support)



Monica Frassoni is an Italian environmentalist and federalist activist who served as a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2009 and co-chaired the European Green Party until 2019.

Since 2011, she has chaired EU-ASE, an organization promoting energy efficiency in Europe, and since 2013 has led ECES, the European Centre for Electoral Support, which assists electoral processes in partner countries of the European Union.

Vincent Maître

Member of the Swiss National Council



Vincent Maître is an attorney at the Geneva Bar and a Member of the Swiss National Council since 2019. Co-founder and senior partner of DE BOCCARD Associés SA, he specializes in business, commercial, and corporate law.

Elected to public office at the age of twenty-six, he served on Geneva's Municipal Council and later in the Cantonal Parliament, where he chaired several legislative, fiscal, and judicial committees before joining the Federal Parliament.

He also serves as Vice-President of Centre Switzerland and sits on the boards of several foundations and organizations.

Our speakers



Bill O'Dowd

CEO and Founder, Dolphin Entertainment, Member of the United Way Leadership Committee

Bill O'Dowd founded Dolphin Entertainment in 1996. Today, Dolphin is one of the leading independent entertainment and marketing companies in the United States, operating across film, television, digital content, and public relations.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, O'Dowd is also deeply involved in philanthropy and education. He serves on the Leadership Council of United Way Worldwide and supports numerous civic and educational initiatives.

PANEL 7 – Democracy and Religion

Ana Palacio

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain



Ana Palacio is a Spanish politician, lawyer, and diplomat who served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs. A leading figure in European and international institutions, she chaired both the Legal Affairs Committee and the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament.

She has also served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the World Bank Group and as Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

An expert on European affairs, energy policy, and geopolitics, she currently sits on the boards of several international companies and think tanks, including the Atlantic Council and Engagés. A visiting professor at Georgetown University and a columnist for *Project Syndicate* and *El Mundo*, she is a frequent speaker at major international conferences.



Ferghane Azihari

Essayist and Columnist, Le Figaro

Ferghane Azihari is an essayist and columnist for *Le Figaro Magazine* and France Info TV. His work focuses on political philosophy, secularism, and the relationship between religion and modernity.

He is the author of *Islam Against Modernity*, published by Presses de la Cité.

Marek Cichocki

Philosopher, Scholar of Political Theology



Marek Cichocki is a philosopher, political scientist, and historian of political thought. He is Professor at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and co-founder of *Teologia Polityczna (Political Theology)*, a leading intellectual journal.

His research focuses on the history of ideas, political philosophy, international relations, German-Polish relations, and European integration. Between 2006 and 2007, he served as Poland's sherpa during negotiations on the Lisbon Treaty.

The author of numerous books and articles on politics, culture, and international affairs, his recent works include *North and South: Essays on Polish Historical Culture* (2020) and *Contemporary States and the Crisis of the Western Order* (2020).



Jean-François Colosimo

Historian of Religions, Essayist, CEO of Editions du Cerf

Jean-François Colosimo is a historian of religions, essayist, and CEO of Éditions du Cerf. A recognized specialist in Eastern Christianity, the relationship between religion and politics, and the history of religious ideas, he has devoted much of his work to the spiritual and geopolitical challenges of the contemporary world.

The author of numerous essays, including *Too Many Men*, *The French Religion*, and *The Sword and the Turban*, he regularly contributes to public debate on issues relating to religion, the Middle East, and the relationship between faith, culture, and democracy. A producer and documentary filmmaker, he has also collaborated with several French media outlets and cultural institutions.



Bernard Rougier

Political Scientist, Specialist in Islam

Bernard Rougier is a political scientist and university professor specializing in Islamist movements and political dynamics in the Middle East and Europe. A professor at Sorbonne University, he directs several research programs dedicated to radicalization, Islamist networks, and ideological transformations within contemporary societies.

His academic work has focused in particular on Lebanon, conflicts in the Middle East, and the establishment of Islamist movements in Europe. The author of several major reference works, including *Everyday Jihad* and *Territories Conquered by Islamism*, he regularly speaks in the media and at international conferences on issues of security, religion, and democratic cohesion.

KEYNOTE – Tocqueville and France in the world

Jean-Louis Bourlanges

**Former Member of French
Parliament, Former Chair of
the Foreign Affairs Committee**



Jean-Louis Bourlanges is a French politician, essayist, and former Member of Parliament specializing in European and international affairs. A graduate of Sciences Po, holder of an agrégation in modern literature, and a graduate of ENA, he also served as a senior adviser at the French Court of Auditors.

A leading figure of France's pro-European movement, he served in the European Parliament from 1989 to 2007, notably chairing the Committee on Budgetary Control and later the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

Elected to the National Assembly in 2017 under the MoDem banner, he chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2021 to 2024. A columnist and essayist, he regularly contributes to public debate on Europe, democratic institutions, and international relations. The author of several books and a member of the editorial board of *Commentaire*, he is widely regarded as one of the leading intellectual voices of contemporary European centrism.

CONVERSATION – Passing on the legacy of the great texts

Katja Gentinetta

Political Philosopher



Katja Gentinetta, who holds a doctorate in philosophy, is a Swiss political and economic philosopher. Since 2011, she has worked as a journalist, independent columnist, university lecturer, and member of various strategic councils and institutions. She serves as Chair of the Foundation Council of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva and is a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

She recently contributed to a report by the Swiss Federal Council's study commission on national security policy. A frequent participant in public debates and media programs, she regularly speaks in Switzerland and abroad at conferences, roundtables, and interviews.

Katja Gentinetta studied in Zurich and Paris and earned her doctorate with a dissertation on the limits of tolerance in pluralistic societies. She has held numerous leadership positions in the fields of culture, politics, and economics and is the author of several books on social, economic, and public policy issues.

Over the years, she has also worked as a television presenter, notably hosting *Sternstunde Philosophie* and co-hosting *NZZ Standpunkte* on Swiss television.

François-Xavier Bellamy

Member of the European Parliament



François-Xavier Bellamy is a Member of the European Parliament, an agrégé in philosophy, and Executive Vice President of the French political party *Les Républicains*. A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure, he taught philosophy while becoming actively involved in local public life as Deputy Mayor of Versailles.

Elected to the European Parliament in 2019 and re-elected in 2024, he works primarily on educational, cultural, economic, and European issues. A well-known essayist, he is the author of *The Disinherited* and *The Urgency of Passing On*, books devoted to cultural transmission, education, and the foundations of European civilization.

A regular participant in French and European public debate, he frequently contributes to discussions on the future of Western democracies.

Michel Onfray

Philosopher



Michel Onfray is a philosopher, essayist, and founder of the Popular University of Caen. Born in Normandy, he rose to prominence in the 1990s through his work on the history of philosophy, ethics, and critical thought. An exceptionally prolific author, he has published more than one hundred books translated into numerous languages.

Among his best-known works are *A Treatise of Atheology*, *The Power of Existing*, *Decadence*, and the multi-volume series *Counter-History of Philosophy*. His writings explore both ancient philosophy and contemporary political, cultural, and civilizational issues.

A regular lecturer and public intellectual, he frequently contributes to French public debate on intellectual, historical, and democratic questions.

PANEL 8 – Europe between the Imperative of Power and the Rule of Law

Céline Marangé

Research Fellow, IRSEM



Céline Marangé is a researcher at IRSEM, the Institute for Strategic Research of the Military School, where she specializes in European security and Russian foreign policy. A graduate of Sciences Po and holder of a doctorate in political science, she has spent many years studying influence strategies, contemporary conflicts, and relations between Russia and Europe.

Her research focuses in particular on the war in Ukraine, Russian information operations, and European defence issues. The author of numerous studies and academic contributions, she regularly appears in the media and at international conferences devoted to geopolitical and strategic affairs.

Camille Grand

Former NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defense Investment



Camille Grand is a specialist in strategic affairs and former NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment from 2016 to 2022. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris, he held several positions within the French Ministry of Defence and in research institutions dedicated to international security.

Before joining NATO, he led the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) and advised several European institutions on defence and deterrence issues. Recognized as one of Europe's leading strategic experts, he regularly speaks on NATO, European security, the war in Ukraine, and transatlantic relations.

Gabrielius Landsbergis

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania



Gabrielius Landsbergis is a Lithuanian politician and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania from 2020 to 2024. A graduate in history and international relations, he began his career in Lithuania's diplomatic service before being elected to the European Parliament in 2014.

As Chairman of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats, he emerged as one of Europe's leading voices on regional security, support for Ukraine, and relations with Russia and China. During his tenure as Foreign Minister, he played an active role in European and transatlantic debates concerning continental security, NATO reinforcement, and the democratic sovereignty of Central and Eastern European states.

A frequent speaker at international conferences on geopolitics and European defence, he is widely recognized for his analysis of contemporary strategic challenges and the transformation of the international order since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

Our speakers

Karim Emile Bitar
Professor of International
Relations, Sciences Po,
IRIS



Karim Émile Bitar teaches Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies at Sciences Po Paris. A former Director of the Institute of Political Science at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), he currently holds the Georges Corm Chair in International Relations, Political Economy, and the History of Ideas at the same institution.

He is affiliated with several leading think tanks, including the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C. He is also a co-founder of Kulluna Irada, a civic organization advocating for political reform in Lebanon. In addition, he serves as Vice President of the Circle of Arab Economists and is a member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council.

With more than 3,000 media interviews to his credit, he is among the most frequently quoted experts on international affairs and Middle Eastern politics in the global media. He has delivered lectures and keynote addresses in more than twenty countries and is regularly invited to testify before the foreign affairs and defence committees of the French Parliament and the European Parliament.

Olexander Scherba
Ambassador of Ukraine to
South Africa



Olexander Scherba is a diplomat, author, and former Ambassador of Ukraine to Austria. A graduate in international relations from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, he joined the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the early 1990s and held several diplomatic posts in Europe and the United States.

As Ambassador of Ukraine in Vienna from 2014 to 2021, he played an important role in defending Ukraine's position following the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of war in the Donbas. The author of several essays and analyses on Russia, Ukraine, and European security, he regularly speaks in the media and at international conferences on geopolitical issues related to the war in Ukraine and relations between Europe and Russia.

He currently serves as Ambassador of Ukraine to South Africa.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

LE FIGARO



 **MORE PERFECT**



ZENGER



 **Les Éditions
La Vie Communale**



CHAMPAGNE
FLEUR DE MIRAVAL
À LE MESNIL-SUR-OGER
Petite Fleur

Contact

Corinne Nassif

CEO

cnassif@tocquevillefoundation.org

+33 6 47 32 84 12

Follow us



@TocquevilleFDN



Tocqueville Foundation



Conversations Tocqueville



@tocquevillefoundation



@fondation_tocqueville