

# European & Eurasian Studies Program

## (Un)expected Effects of the War in Ukraine on Wider Europe

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33186 – Graham Center – GC 355

*Tuesday, March 26, 2024 / 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.*

### Roundtable Participants: Biographical Notes



#### **Shota Gvineria**

*Lecturer in Defense and Cyber Studies*

*Baltic Defense College, Tartu, Estonia*

*Senior Fellow in Economic Policy Research Center*

*Former Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands*

Ambassador Shota Gvineria joined the Baltic Defence College as the lecturer in Defence and Cyber Studies in July of 2019. He is also a senior fellow at the Economic Policy Research Center since 2017. Earlier, Amb. Gvineria has been working on various positions in Georgia's public sector. Among other positions, Shota Gvineria served as the Deputy Secretary at the National Security Council of Georgia. He held the position of the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Minister of Defense of Georgia in 2015-16. Through 2010-14, he served as the Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 2010 he was promoted to the position of a Director of European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Prior to that, he served as a Head of NATO Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In the period from 2006 until 2008, Shota Gvineria was posted as the Counselor of the Georgian Mission to NATO. Amb. Gvineria holds MA in Strategic Security Studies from Washington's National Defense University. He also earned his MA in International Relations from the Diplomatic School of Madrid and Public Administration from the Georgian Technical University.



## **Zana Rudi**

*Former Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Panama*

Zana Rudi served as the first Ambassador of Kosovo to Panama City, Panama. During her six-year tenure in Panama, she expanded her diplomatic reach to become Kosovo's Ambassador to Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Guyana, effectively covering all of Latin America (ex officio) from her residence in Panama. A staunch proponent of diplomacy and collaborative statecraft, Ms. Rudi is distinguished as the Kosovar Ambassador with the largest number of secondary accreditations and the broadest regional responsibilities, embodying the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that stands at the heart of effective international relations. Her diligent efforts have significantly enhanced Kosovo's international standing and illustrated the impact of good diplomacy.

Her education at Graceland University, Harvard Kennedy School, and her experience as an advisor to the Foreign Minister of Kosovo, enabled her to play a decisive role in shaping the young country's foreign policy and institutional efforts to enhance its international image and standing.

In acknowledgement of her outstanding service and societal contributions, in 2017, Zana Rudi was honored with an Honorary Doctorate from her alma mater, Graceland University.



## **Olesea Stamate**

*Member of the Parliament of Moldova  
Vice President of the Party of Action and Solidarity*

**Olesea Stamate** is a Moldovan politician. She served as Minister of Justice from 24 June 2019 to 14 November 2019.

She has a bachelor's degree in law from Moldova State University. She also has a master's degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies from College of Europe in Natolin, Poland.



**Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations  
Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program  
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs  
Florida International University*

Tatiana Kostadinova is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Florida State University. Her research and teaching interests include elections, institutions, democratization, political corruption, and populism. She has been the recipient of several grants, among which the American Political Science Small Research Grant (2002) and a Fellowship Program Award from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (2003-2004). Kostadinova is the author of two books. In *Bulgaria 1879-1946: The Challenge of Choice* (East European Monographs/Columbia University Press, 1995) she explored institutional arrangements, party competition, and voting patterns in Bulgarian parliamentary elections. The second book, *Political Corruption in Eastern Europe: Politics After Communism* (Lynne Rienner, 2012) analyzed the emergence of corruption as a major obstacle to successful democratic transition. Her findings turn the attention to the eroding impact of malfeasance on citizen trust in institutions and the role of the European Union for promoting integrity in public life. Other publications include journal articles in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Professor Kostadinova's primary teaching area is comparative politics. At the undergraduate level, she teaches courses on Russian and Eastern European politics, electoral behavior, and research methods. Her graduate level courses include seminars on democratic transitions, political parties, political corruption, and advanced research.