

## Conference

### The Russian World against Australia and its region

The ANU Centre for European Studies, The Australian National University

28 October 2022, 9:30-16:00

RSSS Building Auditorium, 146 Ellery Crescent

### Speakers' bios

**Dr Raisa Akifeva** (WA) Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and holds a PhD in anthropology and sociology from the UWA. She is a former teaching and research academic in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, HSE University and a visiting academic at the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow. Her areas of research interests include international migration processes, child-rearing practices, Russian-speaking migrants, and diaspora institutions.

**Dr Ilya Fomin** (Macquarie University), President of Svoboda Alliance NSW Inc, Post-doctoral fellow in geophysics at Macquarie University. Participated in anti-Putin protests in Moscow in 2011-2012, was an independent observer during elections.

**Dr Elena Govor** (ANU) is lecturer in the ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics and an Australian writer and historian born in Minsk, Belarus. She specialises in the history of Russian- Australian contact. Since moving to Australia in 1990, Dr Govor has researched and written many publications about topics such as early Russian voyages to Australia and the history of early Russian émigré communities in Australia, including 'Australia in the Russian Mirror: Changing Perceptions (1770-1919)' (MUP) and 'Russian Anzacs in Australian History' (UNSW Press, 2005).

**Dr Robert Horvath** (La Trobe University) is a specialist on Russian Politics. His most recent book is 'Putin's Fascists: Russkii Obraz and the Politics of Managed Nationalism in Russia' (Routledge, 2021). It examines the relationship between the Putin regime and Russkii Obraz, a neo-nazi organization that became a major force on Russia's radical nationalist scene in 2008-10. He is also the author of "Putin's Preventive Counter-Revolution: Post-Soviet Authoritarianism and the Spectre of Velvet Revolution" (Routledge, 2013), a study of the programme of reforms and repression that transformed the face of Russian politics during Vladimir Putin's second term as president.

**Evgeniya (Jane) Manakova** President of Svoboda Alliance VIC, Administrative officer in one of the Melbourne Councils, Russian activist.

**Ivan Pavlenko** was born in Saint-Petersburg in Russian Federation. He migrated in Australia in 2008 as an IT specialist currently employed as an IT specialist in the medical field. He is a member of Svoboda Alliance since March 2022.

**Taisiya Payne** - Russian activist, poet, member of Svoboda Alliance SA from Western Australia. Completed a Bachelor's Degree in Arts at Curtin University

**Irina Salavatova**, Russian pro-democratic activist from WA with a Masters Degree in Maths and Computer Science, deeply involved in the migrant communities of Australia and New Zealand as a mathematics teacher with over 30 years of experience. She is also a member of the editorial board of a New Zealand pro-democratic Russian-speaking community newspaper "The Inhabited Island".

**Galina Seredina**, Master of IP Law, Registered Trademark Attorney, Research Innovation Manager at Macquarie University. A volunteer and an active participant of the Russian opposition movement since 2011.

**Dr Matthew Sussex** (Australian Defence College, ANU) is a Senior Fellow at the Australian Defence College and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Griffith University. His main research specialisation is on Russian foreign and security policy, but his interests also cover government and politics in Eurasia; strategic studies; terrorism and counter-terrorism; energy security; and Australian foreign policy. He is particularly interested in contemporary trends in violent conflict, especially in 'hybrid' warfare and in the evolution of propaganda.

**Chris Zappone** (*The Age*) is Digital Foreign Editor at *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, where he was among the first in the media to report on the Kremlin's efforts to interfere in the 2016 US election. He has presented on related subjects at SXSW in the US and testified to Parliament on the political risk of social media manipulation. Chris was also an inaugural member of the National Security College's Futures Hub in 2017. Chris writes about the interplay between technology and politics, economics, ideology, US politics, space and the future. He also produces commentary and analysis on the broader challenges to democracy from the new information ecosystem.