

: DW Global Media Forum

Tête-à-Tête

Shifting powers and democratic accountability: The role of global investigative journalism

World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB)

28 May 2019, 2.30-3.30pm

Language

English

BACKGROUND

The session will focus on media responses to hidden power structures and the rise of global ‘shadow elites’ (Janine Wedel), i.e. power brokers who enjoy undisclosed influence on decisions on war and peace, public finance or social policies. The emergence of this new power structure has been facilitated by a blurring of roles and responsibilities in the wake of ongoing privatisation and digitalisation processes. It thrives on its “deniability” and calls into question the democratic “watchdog” function of traditional media.

Transnational collaboration networks of investigative journalists are often said to be better able to expose irresponsible networks and activities and thereby re-establish democratic accountability. Cases in point are the ‘Panama-Papers’ or ‘Lux-Leaks’-investigations. What kind of tools and resources are needed to carry out such large-scale endeavors? Have recent investigations truly revealed something we did not know before? How to sustain political independence and avoid co-option by powerful political and business elites? And how do we know whether or not the public actually cares about investigative stories?

The debate will be organized as a tête-à-tête between anthropologist and political scientist Professor Janine Wedel, George Mason University, and Ilya Lozovsky, Managing Editor of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

PROGRAMME

Chair

Frank Hofmann

Senior Correspondent, Deutsche Welle

TÊTE-A-TÊTE

Prof. Janine R. Wedel

Schar School of Policy and Government

George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Ilya Lozovsky

Managing Editor

Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Sarajevo

INTERACTIVE PLENARY DISCUSSION

END OF SESSION

BIO NOTES



Frank Hofmann
Senior Correspondent, Deutsche Welle

Berlin based roving Senior Correspondent for Deutsche Welle and author focused on Transatlantic Relations, European Integration, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans. Moved to Berlin following the fall of the Berlin Wall, and have spent most of subsequent career investigating post-cold war issues. As DW's correspondent and bureau chief in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, established the first permanent representation of a German TV organization. Prior role as roving correspondent in Central/Eastern Europe and the Balkans, covering the Balkan war, the fall of Yugoslavia, the overrun of UN safe zone Srebrenica.



Professor Janine R. Wedel
Schar School of Policy and Government
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Janine R. Wedel, a University Professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University (and fellow at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin), writes about governance, corruption, “shadow” and influence elites, and accountability through the lens of a social anthropologist. A public intellectual, her latest book is *Unaccountable: How the Establishment Corrupted Our Finances, Freedom, and Politics and Created an Outsider Class* (2016 & 2014). Other prizewinning books are *Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market* (2009) and *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe* (2001), which won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.



Ilya Lozovsky
Managing Editor
Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Sarajevo

Ilya Lozovsky is Managing Editor at OCCRP. Prior to joining the organization, he worked for Foreign Policy in Washington, where he edited and wrote for the magazine's Democracy Lab channel. Ilya has also worked as Program Officer for Eurasia at Freedom House, providing emergency support to human rights activists and organizations across that continent. Ilya's work - which mostly covers the problems of liberal democracy in the world today - has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, *Haaretz*, and other outlets. He was born in Moscow and emigrated to the U.S. in the last days of the Soviet Union, settling and growing up in the Boston area. He speaks Russian and German and holds an MA in political development from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.