

## Information About the Authors

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**Agata Włodkowska** – Doctor Habilitatus, graduating from the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at the University of Warsaw in 2002. Since 2005, she has held a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Warsaw. In 2014, she received her habilitation (a senior doctorate) from the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. Her key research areas concern: international relations and security in the post-Soviet space, the Russian Federation and the post-Soviet states' foreign and security policy, Poland's foreign policy, and the feminist approach in international relations. She is the co-author and coordinator of the project *Women in Polish Political Science. From Diagnosis to Cooperation*. She is the author and editor of numerous articles and books.

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**Agata Domachowska** – Associate Professor (dr hab., prof. UMK) at the Faculty of Humanities (Nicolaus Copernicus University, NCU) and a senior analyst at the Institute of Central Europe (Department of the Balkans). The recipient of numerous scholarships and grants from prestigious institutions, including the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York, the 2015 ASEES Davis Travel Grant, the Polish Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Croatia; and has conducted research at the University of Pittsburgh, George Washington University and the Humboldt University of Berlin as well as in the archives and libraries of Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, and Croatia. She has also completed an internship at the European Parliament and a training stay at the Polish Embassy in Tirana (Albania). A head of The Laboratory for the Study of Collective Memory in Post-communist Europe (POST-COMER), and the Polish Commission of Balkan Culture and History. Her research focuses on identity and historical narratives, nation-building and the politics of memory in the Western Balkans, Balkan diasporas, and the politics and culture of the Western Balkan states.

**Mārtiņš Vargulis** – is a lecturer at Rīga Stradiņš University. He holds an MA in International Relations and currently continues his Ph.D. studies at Rīga Stradiņš University. In his academic career, he has focused on issues concerning Russia (particularly security, economy, and soft power), the World Trade Organization, NATO and Security-related issues, as well as the European Neighbourhood. He is the author of numerous articles and the editor of several books. He is also a Researcher at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs. In his long-standing professional career as a representative at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, he has been Head of Defence Policy and Strategy Section as well as Diplomat at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to NATO and the EU.

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**Kevser Mermer Akmaz** – a research scientist in The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, and continues her master’s studies in Istanbul University Political Science and International Relations department. Her master’s studies mainly focus on international security on space and astropolitics. She has written papers called “World Trends of Space Activities’ and Space Economy”, and “Usage Areas of Renewable Resources: Geothermal Energy”. She has R&D project experience on sector analysis, sectoral strategy development, digital transformation projects, and developing target marketing strategies. She conducts workshops, focus group meetings, surveys, and interviews in national programs and regional projects.

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