

2 May 2022

**LOCATION: Aula A2, Campus Kanaal  
Slotstraat 28, 1000 Brussel)**  
**TIME: 12:00 – 13:30**

**LOCATION: UA ANTWERPEN**  
**TIME: 19:00 – 20:30**

## **WAT IS DE TOESTAND VAN ONZE DEMOCRATIE?**

Democracy Café PEN Vlaanderen en PersKring



Welke impact hebben radicale standpunten en meningen, en hoe giftig zijn sociale media?

Alicja Gescinska gaat in gesprek met [Hind Fraihi](#) die zich in haar boek Antipode buigt over radicale standpunten of meningen die ingaan tegen de heersende opinie. Het is pas wanneer ze gisten op een voedingsbodem van frustratie, woede of angst, dat ze kunnen doorschieten naar extremisme. Zelfs het 'evenwichtige midden' valt er steeds meer aan ten prooi. Gevoed door brandversnellers van de sociale media ontpopt de ene groep zicht tot de antipode van de andere.



Het zijn rijkgeschakeerde mozaïeken die een fluïde, beweeglijke zelfs ambivalente mengeling vormen van oude linkse en rechtse standpunten, indentitarisme, decolonize, islamisme, de coronapandemie en de klimaatopwarming. Met complotdenken en een focus op de infame jaren '30 bijna als vaste prik.

Kortom, hoe radicalisering van een groep tegenradicalisering in de hand werkt, en zo uiteindelijk onze democratie steeds meer ondermijnt.

Een gesprek over Antipode is een gesprek over de broosheid en weerbaarheid van onze democratie.

**FREE ENTRANCE**  
**REGISTRATION FOR UA**

2 May 2022

**LOCATION: BOZAR CENTRE FOR FINE ARTS**  
Rue Ravenstein 23,  
1000 Brussels  
**TIME: 18:00 – 21:30**

**EUROPEAN GALA AWARD CEREMONY FOR FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION**

18:00 Registration & Networking reception

19:00 Welcoming everyone to Difference Day Prorector Caroline Pauwels

19:15 Guest speaker:

Thierry Breton European Commissioner for Internal Market/  
Vera Jourova European Commission Vice-President Values & Transparency (tbc)

19:30 Entrée

20:00 Guest Speaker: Bruno Beeckman Journalist @EBU

20:20 Main Course

20:50 Presentation of the Difference Day Honorary Title

- BAJ (Belarus Association for Journalists) Barys Haretski
- The Fix: Jakub Parusinski

21:30 Dessert Buffet

**HOST PRESENTER: ANNELIES BECK (VRT)**

(by invitation only)

3 May 2022

**LOCATION: GREENWICH MODERNE  
RUE DES CHARTREUX, 7 – 1000 BRUXELLES  
TIME: 10:30 – 12:00**

## **CAFÉ EUROPE LIBERTÉ ET AVENIR DE LA PRESSE EN EUROPE**



Café Europa est un projet initié dans le cadre de la Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne.

Café Europa invite de jeunes journalistes en formation à débattre avec un duo de journalistes français et belge. Lou Héliot, journaliste pour *Le 1* hebdo et Quentin Jardon, cofondateur et rédacteur en chef adjoint de *Wilfried* partageront leur expérience lors de cette rencontre animée par Charlotte Marie Pion, étudiante en journaliste à la Vrij Universiteit Brussel.

Faire du journalisme autrement et créer des solutions pour garantir leur liberté éditoriale. A l'heure où une certaine frénésie de l'information s'impose tous les jours, l'hebdomadaire *Le 1* et le magazine *Wilfried* défendent une forme d'éloge de la lenteur pour prendre le temps d'explorer et d'éclairer l'actualité « loin des idées reçues et du zapping ». Quentin Jardon et Lou Héliot raconteront leur expérience et souligneront combien faire du journalisme autrement peut être difficile mais exaltant.

Ce débat est également l'occasion de promouvoir la culture des cafés. Café Europa 2022 se tiendra dans un café emblématique de la ville de Bruxelles pour son architecture Art nouveau, le Greenwich Moderne. Lieu d'échanges et de convivialité, les cafés sont en Europe ces lieux ouverts au monde et aux péripéties du quotidien.

**ENTRÉE LIBRE**  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

3 May 2022

LOCATION: STUDIO @BOZAR  
TIME: 10:00 – 11:30

## JOURNALISM DURING A TIME OF CRISIS



Independent media play a vital role in holding authorities to account, exposing corruption, providing information to citizens, offering a platform for debate, and debunking disinformation. Yet freedom of speech is under threat in many countries worldwide, and journalists are a particular target for authoritarian regimes. This session focuses on the experiences of journalists in Belarus and Ukraine.

Belarusian journalists have experienced a particularly severe crackdown with journalists being driven out of the country and are now living in exile, and very few independent media still operating inside the country.

In Ukraine, a country with a previously vibrant if somewhat challenging media ecosystem, most media outlets are now struggling to survive, given the collapse of the advertising market following Russia's invasion. Once successful commercial outlets now rely on donor funding to pay their staff and continue to report, at a time when there has never been a greater demand for independent journalism.

Most Ukrainian journalists had no previous reporting experience from war zones, and they now have to work in highly dangerous conditions. Several have already been killed, and kidnapped and many have been injured. They are at the front line of what is not just a military war but also a war of information.

### Main issues:

How can we ensure that journalists on the ground can continue to report in safety?

How can we address the gap between the large demand for first-hand independent news and the reality on the ground?

Who do you trust?

### Panellists:

- Natalia Gumenyuk, Ukrainian journalist and founder of Public Interest Journalism Lab
- Barys Haretski & Hanna Valynets, VP and spokesperson, Belarusian Association of Journalists
- Jakub Parusinski, author at The Fix and crowdfunder:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/keep-ukraines-media-going>
- Pavol Demes, EED Executive committee vice-chair and GMFUS fellow
- Moderated by [Hanna Liubakova](#)

**FREE ENTRANCE**

**STUDENTS' SPEAKERS CORNER**

**LOCATION: OUTSIDE TERRAS BOZAR RESTAURANT**

**TIME: 12:00 – 14:00**

During the Difference Day 2022 program, we will also be presenting **“Students’ Speakers Corner”**

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**BEING IN EXILE/RECOVERING ONE’S PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY**

**LOCATION: @CAMPUS ULB – FOYER CULTUREL-SOLBOSCH**

**TIME: 12:00 – 14:00**



The association En-GAJE invites you to meet two journalists in exile to discuss their career and their work. The meeting will also allow you to discover the new media LATITUDES ([medialatitudes.be](https://medialatitudes.be)) and to discuss with journalists in exile and students who participate in this media.



**Speakers :**

- Chair of the session En-GAJE
- **Ahmed Gamal Zaida**, journalist in exile (Egypt)
- **Rewaa Mershid**, journalist in exile (Palestine)
- For LATITUDES: Alexandre Niyungeko (sub-editor in chief)

**FREE ENTRANCE  
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

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4 May 2022

**THE HUNGARIAN PLAYBOOK**

**LOCATION: @CAMPUS VUB AULA QB**

**TIME: 15:00 – 16:30**

Trisha Meyer, Professor of Digital Governance and Participation, introduces us to the movie by tracing a parallel with what is happening now in Europe with the banning of RT.

**THE HUNGARIAN PLAYBOOK (DOCUMENTARY)**

At the heart of the European Union, an authoritarian regime is in the making. A key element in consolidating power is a degree of media control that has not existed since the fall of the communist regime. Our investigative documentary follows the struggle of a handful of young journalists against a system, which is becoming a role model across national borders. Secretly made recordings and leaked documents from within the headquarters of state media testify of a world that is held together by fear and humiliation. Internal communications prove: public media are under the direct control of the cabinet office of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. At the European level, our protagonists will look into the economic and strategic interests that are pushing leading E.U. members to turn a blind eye.

Bence Máté has been working as a journalist and a documentary filmmaker since 2011. He was stationed in Cairo as a Middle East correspondent for the Hungarian public news service until he resigned in 2016. As a film-maker, he dealt, among other things, with human rights violations in Egypt, sectarian violence in Israel and Palestine, and political corruption in Hungary.

We close this session with a discussion between Bence Maté, Aldo Verschuere and Trisha Meyer.

**FREE ENTRANCE  
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**4 & 5 May 2022**

**THEY BLEW HER UP**

**HERMAN GRECH & SPAZJU KREATTIV**



**LOCATION: KVS BRUSSELS**

**TIME: 20:30**

16 oktober 2017. Malta wordt opgeschrikt door een brutale moord. Daphne Caruana Galizia, een Maltese journaliste en anti-corruptie-activiste wordt met een autobom om het leven gebracht. Een rijke zakenman wordt ervan verdacht de moord te hebben besteld, maar er rijzen vermoedens dat hij door hooggeplaatste politici wordt beschermd. Voor They Blew Her Up sprak Herman Grech (schrijver en hoofdredacteur van de krant Times of Malta) met enkele van de belangrijkste betrokkenen en groef hij naar het hart van de zaak. Dat resulteert in dit beklijvende fictiestuk, gebaseerd op de dramatische rechtszaak en interviews.

[Order Tickets @KVS](#)

**EXTRA**

Met nabespreking in aanwezigheid van Caruana Galizia's zoon Matthew.

Met de steun van [The Association of European Journalists](#).