

# SPEAKERS

## & MODERATORS

**Alice Samara** is an historian and teacher. She was born in Lisbon in April 1974 and studied at Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (Nova University), where she earned the PhD in Contemporary History (contemporary institutional and political History). The most recent research focused on the Portuguese resistance to fascist regime, memory and space and social mobilization in the Agrarian Reform during the revolutionary process in Portugal.

**Antonis Rigopoulos**, a journalist with political science background also, one of the journalists who covered closely during all the years the Golden Dawn trial. He has also an internationalist perspective, has worked for international media before, and has given many interviews on the topic. He is an editor at the investigative newspaper Documento and the editor-in-chief of koutipandoras.gr website. He is a member of the International Press Institute (IPI). He previously collaborated with many international media organizations, including the Associated Press and Anadolu News Agency. In 2019 he co-hosted a political talk show on ERT1 TV (Greek Public Broadcaster). Tony covered the long-running trial of the Greek neo-nazi organization/political party Golden Dawn from 2015 to 2020. On the same year he was sent on a mission to the island of Lesbos, to cover the fire that destroyed the infamous Moria refugee camp. During the pandemic, he was briefly detained and physically harassed by the Greek Police while covering a demonstration in the center of Athens, causing a reaction by local and international journalist unions and press freedom organizations, including RSF, EFJ and IPI. Tony self-defines as a Greek of partial foreign descent and speaks English, Greek, and Arabic.

[@tony\\_rgps on twitter](#)

**Aslı Aydın**, Ph.D, received her doctorate in economics from Hacettepe University. She carries out her studies in the fields of labor economy, technology and development and also recently climate change. She is currently working at Kadir Has University. She continues as an academician after being an economics writer in BirGün newspaper, one of Turkey's left-wing newspapers and also a researcher at KESK, the Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions. Aslı Aydın is also a member of the Left Party and a member of the European Left executive board on behalf of the party.

**Barbara Steiner** is a political scientist based in Vienna and director of transform!europe

**Bilal Berady**, is a student in Sociology at Sciences Po Paris. His research interests are political sociology, the far-right and social classes. He is a member of the Espaces Marx foundation and the transform! europe network and activist of RED Jeunes in Paris.

[@red\\_jeunes on instagram](#)

**Caro Keller** has been the editor of the nationwide anti-fascist alliance NSU-Watch since 2016. The alliance consists of individuals, archives and groups. It not only accompanied the trial against the terrorist group National Socialist Underground, but also put the minutes of the trial days online. In addition, they create analyzes of right-wing terror, provide information in their own podcast, report on investigative committees or other processes and on the right-wing scene in general.

**Cécile Dumas**, membre du conseil national du PCF, responsable adjointe du secteur international en charge des questions migratoires et de l'Amérique latine, conseillère régionale Ile de France.

**Cecília Honório**, is member of the Portuguese Observatory of the Far-Right and one of the coordinators of the book Old and New Far-rights (Novas e Velhas Extremas-Direitas, Edições Parsifal, 2021). She is a former Bloco de Esquerda MP and holds a PhD in History of Political Ideas (FCSH - Nova University of Lisbon).

**Charlie Le Paige**, membre de la direction du PTB, direction politique et responsable du travail du parti vers la jeunesse. Professeur de sciences sociales dans l'enseignement secondaire de formation, il habite à Anvers et est un ancien dirigeant du mouvement étudiant du PTB (Comac).

**Cornelia Ernst** has been a member of the European Parliament since 2009 for DIE LINKE. She is the coordinator of The Left group in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and her work focuses on European asylum and migration policies, as well as data protection. Before, Cornelia chaired her party in the land of Saxony and was also a member of the regional parliament. She is the Co-President of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) of the European Parliament, where she focuses on the fight against exclusion of Sinti and Roma.

**Cornelia Hildebrandt** is, together with Marga Ferré (Europe of Citizens Foundation, FEC, Spanien), Co-President of transform! europe. She is consultant on parties and social movements as well as on issues regarding ideological dialogue of the Institute for Critical Social Analysis of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation (RLS).

**Dáire Hughes** is currently Sinn Féin Deputy General Secretary (Leas Ard Runaí), having previously worked as Political Manager of Sinn Féin's European Parliament team and as manager of the party's United Ireland campaign. Dáire also represented Sinn Féin on Newry

and Mourné District Council, serving a year as Mayor.

**Daniel Jadue**, is son of Palestinian migrants, member of the Communist Party of which he is part of its Political Commission, Architect and Sociologist, he is currently Mayor of the commune of Recoleta and was Presidential Pre-candidate in the primaries of the conglomerate Apruebo Dignidad. In addition to his two professions, he is a specialist in Social Housing and holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning and a degree in Total Quality Management from the Universidad Católica del Norte. He was professor of Architecture Workshop and Urban Sociology at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of Chile. In the year 2021, in the midst of a pandemic and successive suspensions of the electoral elections, Daniel Jadue runs, for the third time, as Mayor and obtains 64% of citizen support, which consolidates, in the eyes of Chile, as a new way of doing politics: closer, transparent and able to run the siege of what is possible for the benefit of the vast majority of the neglected citizens.

**Danièle Obono**, 41, A long time eco-socialist, anti-globalization, anti-war and afro-feminism activist, was a librarian prior to being selected as the France insoumise candidate for the 2017 general elections in the 17th constituency of Paris (which comprises part of the 18th and the 19th district). She was also a spokesperson of the movement during the 2017 presidential election campaign, and she coordinated the writing process of the political program of the movement. Elected in June 2017, she is a first time member of the French Parliament and member of the France insoumise parliamentary group. She is a member of the Constitutional Laws, legislation and general administration commission of the National Assembly, as well as of the European Affairs commission where she serves as bureau Secretary, and of the Overseas Territories delegation. She is also president of the France-Bangladesh parliamentary friendship group, vice-president of the study group on LGBT discriminations around the world and secretary of the study group on French island economies, natural disaster and public development policies.

**Dariusz Beigui** is the captain of the Luventa and faces up to 20 years in prison for his humanitarian work in the Mediterranean Sea. In 16 operations between July 2016 and August 2017, the Luventa crew allegedly helped rescue more than 14,000 people at sea. The Luventa was confiscated by Italian authorities in Lampedusa in August 2017 under the suspicion that the organization was aiding illegal immigration and working with Libyan smugglers. Ten crew members from Germany, UK, Spain and Portugal have since faced legal action in Italy.

**David Broder**, Editor at Jacobin, Germany. David Broder is Europe editor at Jacobin magazine and author of *First They Took Rome: How the Populist Right Conquered Italy*.  
[@broderly on twitter](#)

**Esther Lynch**, was elected ETUC Deputy General Secretary at the Vienna Congress in May 2019, after four years as Confederal Secretary. She has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels, starting with her election as a shop steward in the 1980s. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements. Esther's responsibilities as Deputy General Secretary, include social dialogue, collective bargaining and wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality and Brexit. As Confederal Secretary she ran a successful EU-wide online campaign Social Rights First that mobilised support for the European Pillar of Social Rights, led ETUC lobbying actions aimed at improving workers rights in legislative initiatives such as the Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive and the Whistleblowing Directive, she spearheaded the ETUC's Europe Needs a Pay Rise campaign and helped secure the EU's adoption of legally binding occupational exposure limits to protect workers from exposure to carcinogens, as well as a social partners' agreement on reprotoxins.

**Fabian Figueiredo**, 33 years old, portuguese, born in Zurich. Sociologist, member of the National Secretariat of Bloco de Esquerda and former MP. During college years, Fabian was an activist against tuition fees, for the democratization of the University and organized anti-war movements. In the past few years, Fabian has dedicated himself to the study of far right movements and its internacional connections, always collaborating with academics, journalists and social activists in the struggle against fascism and racism.

**Ferat Kocak**, also known on social media as [@der\\_neukoellner](#), has been an anti-racist and anti-fascist activist in Berlin since the age of 16, a member of the Berlin's House of Representatives and spokesman for the left-wing faction for anti-fascist politics and climate policy. He was politically socialized by his family, who immigrated to Germany from Anatolia as guest workers in the 1960s, in the Turkish and Kurdish left. He completed his degree in economics at the Freie Universität Berlin and worked in campaigning, marketing and public relations until he entered parliament.

**Fulvia Teano** graduated from a Bachelor in Social Sciences at Glasgow Caledonian University and a Master's Degree in International Security Studies at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa) and the University of Trento, works as an IT security analyst for NTT Data Italia. Her research focus concerns primarily the study of fake news regarding migration and the role of government and civil society organizations in combating xenophobia and racism in the media.

**Gianna Fracassi**, Deputy General Secretary CGIL national. Degree in Law. She began working in pre-school and primary schools. Her trade union career began in 2000 in the CGIL school and then in the CGIL of Arezzo. In 2009 she joined the national secretariat of the FLC CGIL. In 2014 she was elected Confederal Secretary of the national CGIL, and on 24 January 2019 she was elected Deputy General Secretary with deputy functions. Secretariat positions: Economic policies, Next Generation EU, Climate and environmental policies, Transformation policies and environment policies, Green transformation policies, Policies for complex and non-complex crisis areas, Education, research and university policies, Continuing training and interprofessional fund policies, and interprofessional funds, Fiscal policies, Employment plan and territorial bargaining for development development, Reconstruction policies (earthquake), Urban development and housing policies, Land reclamation.

**Heinz Bierbaum** is a sociologist and economist, president of the European Left since December 2019 and head of the international commission of the German party DIE LINKE. He was secretary of the trade union IG Metall from 1980 to 1996, and his academic work focuses on industrial and social policy.

**Jarmila Rybicka** is a sociologist, social activist, together with refugees, she co-creates the Kuchnia Konfliktu (Kitchen of Clash) a bistro that supports building a sense of security and gives the opportunity to share excellent cuisine. She collaborated, among others with activists from Belarus, human rights defenders in Honduras and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. Currently, she helps refugees imprisoned on the Polish-Belarusian border.

**Janine Wissler** has been chairwoman of the DIE LINKE party since February 2021, together with Susanne Hennig-Wellsow. In September 2021 she moved into the German Bundestag for the first time and represents the left-wing faction in the finance committee. She is a passionate socialist and enthusiastic mountaineer.

**Jeremy Corbyn** is a lifelong advocate for peace and socialism. After stepping down as leader of the Labour Party, he is using his experience and connections to create a platform, network, and resource that can support campaigners for social justice and progressive change.

**Judit Somi** is a retired teacher of Russian and history. After the political change in Hungary, she lost the job because of a strike, so she went to Belgium. There she lived for more than 20 years, some years ago she returned to Hungary. In Belgium she is still a member of PC and PTB, in Hungary a member of Munkáspárt -Európai Bal - and of course being a Trotskyist member of the Fourth International/CORQI. For several years she has been working daily with Roma workers in Ozd.

**Judith Benda**, born in Berlin in 1987. 2006–2009 Bachelor European Studies (Universiteit Twente, Enschede, Niederlande / Sciences Po Lille, France), BA thesis, Project on EU elections 2009 – voter turnout of young voters. 2009–2011 Master Contemporary European Studies (University of Bath, England / Sciences Po Paris, France / HU/FU Berlin, Germany), MA thesis on the European citizens initiative. Currently Head of the European Liaison Office Brussels, German Parliamentary Group DIE LINKE and member of the Executive Board of the European Left. Politicization and social commitment in work against racism and right-wing violence in Berlin suburb.

**Kate Hudson** is General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. She is a leading anti-nuclear and anti-war campaigner nationally and internationally. Treasurer of Left Unity (Britain), she is the co-coordinator of the Fighting the far right Working group and the Peace Working group of the Party of the European Left. She was the organiser of the first No Pasaran Conference in London in 2019.

**Kazembe Balagun**, writer, BLM activist, and project manager at the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung's New York Office. Native New Yorker who has worked for over two decades in public engagement for social, racial and ecological justice. His work is centered in building spaces for dialogue and education for community development across multiple disciplines. He has worked as the Education Director for the Brecht Forum, a progressive arts and cultural center (2008-2013) organizing over 250 forums per year. Currently he serves as project manager for the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung New York Office, where he focuses on racial justice and the right to the city.

**Kristian Hernandez**, Member of Democratic Socialists of America's National Political Committee, USA (online) Kristian Hernandez is a socialist organizer and member of the Democratic Socialists of America based in North Texas. She was recently elected to a second term on the National Political Committee.

[@kksteffany on twitter](#)

**Luis Ramiro** (online), Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Leicester, UK, studies political behaviour, organisations, and parties. He has published extensively on these topics, including three books on Spanish and European parties. His articles have appeared in journals such as The Journal of Communist and Post-Communist Studies, South European Society and Politics, Mobilization, and Party Politics.

**Maia Thomas** is an award-winning EDI consultant (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion), international speaker and Instagram influencer. Maia has worked with over 230 new schools last year across the UK on EDI, alongside working with many businesses, politicians and firms. Maia strives daily to make long-lasting positive changes in society, starting various projects such as a food bank that has delivered over 30,000 free food packages to people in need within 12 months.

**Maïté Mola** has a degree in Physical Sciences from the University of the Basque Country and in New Technologies from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Vice-president of the European Left, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, member of the Coordination of the United Left of Spain. Feminist activist, she works in different women's platforms.

**Marga Ferre**, is together with Cornelia Hildebrandt Co-President of transform! europe and President of Europe of Citizens Foundation / Fundación por la Europa de los Ciudadanos (FEC, Spain).

**Martin Schirdewan** is Member of the European Parliament, DIE LINKE, since 2017. In 2019 he got reelected and became co-chair of The Left in the European Parliament GUE/NGL. He is member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Subcommittee on Tax Matters and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. He is also member of the executive board of DIE LINKE since 2018.

**Merve Sahin** (25) studies childhood education and is a member of the DIE LINKE party and an elected member of the Immigrants and Integration Council of the city of Solingen. She has also been campaigning against anti-Muslim racism since 2014.



**Monica Valente** is a psychologist and trade unionist, member of the National Executive Committee of the Brazilian Workers' Party (PT) and Executive Secretary of the São Paulo Forum. From 2014 to 2020 she was Secretary of International Relations.

**Muhammad al- Kashef** is a Human rights lawyer and consultant advocate. An advocacy advisor at Refugees' Platform in Egypt (RPE). A member of Watch The Med Alarm Phone, worked for the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR). Also, he is a co-founder of Refugees' Solidarity Movement in Alexandria in which he developed a deeper specialization in the socio-political situation of refugees in Egypt. He has been based in Berlin since 2017 as a legal expert, a researcher and a consultant with years of experience working alongside refugees and migrants, and monitoring the trajectories of irregular migration from North African countries through the Mediterranean sea. He has a long experience with community organizing and building capacities with the human rights arena, he founded the In-Exile initiative in Berlin as well he is a member of the migrants network We' ll Come United.

**Natascha Strobl** is an Austrian political scientist. She is an expert on right-wing extremism and the New Right, her latest publication is on Conservative Radicalism.

**Ollie Vargas** is a Bolivia-based reporter, co-founder of Kawsachun News, the English language arm of Radio Kawsachun Coca which is the official station of Evo Morales' 6 Federations coca growers union. They built Kawsachun News following the far-right coup of 2019 to inform the world of the abuses of the US-backed dictatorship. Following the return of democracy in Bolivia, we have expanded into covering news from across Latin America in English.

**Seema Syeda** is a socialist activist fighting racial capitalism. Co-author of Creeping Fascism: What it is and How to Fight it', she is interested in building international movements to defeat the far right. She works as Comms & Campaigns Officer for Another Europe Is Possible and is a member of Momentum.

**Sira Rego** is spokesperson for Izquierda Unida and head of External Action, MEP for Unidas Podemos in the European Parliament and vice-president of The Left group. With a long career in municipal politics as a councillor in Rivas Vaciamadrid City Council from 2007 to 2019, where she has held government positions. Anti-fascist, feminist and environmentalist activist.

**Sotiria Chira** is a lawyer and she has been the advocacy and legal coordinator of G2RED since 2020. She strongly believes that fighting for human rights is the only way to lead our world one step closer to equality and social justice. Sotiria studied Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and holds an LL.M. in Human Rights from the University of Strasbourg. From 2015 to 2019 she worked as a parliamentary assistant in the Hellenic Parliament. Her field of expertise is human rights law and particularly migration law. In G2RED, she is responsible of the legal counselling sessions to individuals and she is advocating for their rights to the national authorities, in order to have full access to lawful residence and social rights. She is also representing the organization to the relevant civil society networks, on a European level to PICUM and ENAR and on a national level to the Racist Violence Recording Network.

**Ugo Paletha**, sociologist, associate professor at Université de Lille and co-director of the review Contretemps (France)

**Vassiliki Katrivanou**, head of the social service of the NGO Greek Refugee Council, co ordinating various programs on the schooling of refugees etc.; targeted by Golden Dawn, as an MP, and she has testified in the trial than ended in the conviction of the leading members of the Nazis

**Walter Baier**, an economist based in Vienna, board member of transform! europe. He was National Chairman of the Communist Party of Austria (KPÖ) from 1994 to 2006. He was an editor of the Austrian weekly Volksstimme and from 2007 until 2020 has been Political Coordinator of the network transform! europe.

**Yann Le Lann**, Associate Professor in sociology at Université de Lille (France), President of Espaces Marx and Vice-President of the network transform! europe  
Yann Le Lann, is associate professor at Université de Lille (France). His research focus on sociology of work, social movements analysis and electoral studies. He is President of the French Marxist think tank Espaces Marx, and Vice-President of the network transform! Europe.

**Yann Mompoin**, 24 years old, French, living in Switzerland (near Geneva). Training in the air transport sector. Member of the French Communist Party (PCF) International sector, Consular Delegate of the 2nd constituency of Switzerland (Geneva) elected in May 2021 on the list of the Left "Ecology & Solidarity", Treasurer of the association Français du monde en Suisse, local branch of Français du monde-adfe. LGBTQIA+ activist: Member of the National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA) Europe/UK, involved in relations with companies in the aeronautical sector; Previously member of SOS homophobie for 2 years in Paris, Institutional Relations and Health groups; Then member of Pink Cross in Switzerland for 1 year. Volunteer fireman Holder of a University Diploma of Technology in Sciences and Engineering of Materials. Then a Professional Licence (bachelor) as project manager in radioprotection, dismantling and nuclear waste. Worked for 3 years in French nuclear power plants.