



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

## MEMBERS OF ODIHR'S CORE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES

2025-2029

### Jordi BARRAT (Spain)



Jordi Barrat serves as lecturer on constitutional law at Rovira i Virgili University ([www.urv.cat](http://www.urv.cat)). He has been Training Coordinator at EODS (Election Observation and Democracy Support / 2021-2025) and Deputy of the Catalan Office for the Quality of Democracy (2013-2014). He provides consultancies on election law, election technologies and capacity building on behalf of different organizations (e.g.: Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE/ODIHR, IDEA, IFES, OAS, The Carter Center).

### Fernando CASAL BÉRTOA (Spain)



Fernando Casal Bértoa is an Associate Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom). He is co-director of REPRESENT: Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy. He is also International IDEA, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) collaborator as well as Venice Commission and United Nations (UNDP) expert. His work on the topic of party funding regulation has been published in, among others, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Party Politics*, *Democratization*, *International Political Science Review*, *Politics and Governance*, *Research and Politics*, *Policy Studies*, *East European Politics*, *South European Society and Politics*, *Public Money and Management*, the *Encyclopaedia of Corruption and Society*, and various *Oxford Handbooks* (of Portuguese as well as Polish Politics). His work on money in politics was awarded the 2017 AECPA (Spanish Political Science Association) Prize for the Best Article and the 2022 Routledge Area Studies Impact Award. He is the author of *The Integrity of Political Finance Systems in Asia* (IDEA, 2019), *Political Finance Regulations in 13 African Countries*, *Post-legislative Scrutiny of Election Campaign Finance Legislation* (WFD, 2019, 2022) and *Political Finance and Public Funding of Political Parties in Pakistan* (FES, 2023). He is also the co-editor of *Money Rules: Parties, Oligarchs and Funding Regulation in Post-Soviet Countries* (Routledge, 2024) and *The Regulation of Post-communist Party Politics* (Routledge, 2018).

### **Lolita ČIGĀNE (Latvia)**



Lolita Čigāne is currently Senior Adviser on EU integration at the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine, based in Kyiv. From 2019 to 2024, she worked with various international organizations (OSCE/ODIHR, IFES, CoE, WFD, UN, NDI, others) sharing her expertise in elections, electoral campaigns and their financing, political party development, women political participation and anti-corruption in the regions of Western Balkans, Caucuses, Central Asia, South Asia and others. She previously worked as a journalist (Radio Free Europe, 1997-1999) and anti-corruption activist and advocate (Transparency International Latvia, Open Society Institute 2001 – 2010). She was a member of parliament in Latvia from 2010-2018, serving in various leadership positions (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance in 2013-2014, Chair of European Affairs Committee in 2014-2018). Ms. Čigāne is a PhD candidate in European Law at University of Eastern Finland and an author of the book “A woman in power” (2023, currently available in Latvian).

### **Ömer Faruk GENÇKAYA (Turkey)**



Ömer Faruk Gençkaya is a Full Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Istanbul Medipol University. His areas of specialization include constitutional politics, political parties, political finance, and anti-corruption from a comparative perspective. He served as Council of Europe scholar at the University of Oslo (1987), full professor at Bilkent University (1990-2008), Fulbright scholar at Duke University (2001) and Roanoke College (VA, 2005), and at COE-GRECO as country evaluator (2008-2016). He contributed to Global Integrity, the Transparency International-Turkey chapter, the International IDEA political finance database, and Berthelsmann SGI Turkey Reports between 2008 and 2021 as a researcher and reviewer. Mr. Gençkaya is a member of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (IPSA) and the co-author of *Democratization and Politics of Constitution-Making in Turkey* (2009).

### **Marie Luise von HALEM (Germany)**



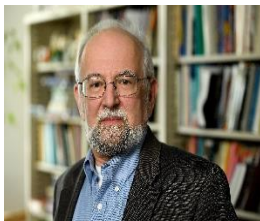
Marie Luise von Halem holds a M.A. in Linguistics and Literature from LMU in Munich/Germany but soon turned to politics in the former Eastern part of Germany. As Secretary General of a political party's state association, she held responsibility for the party's election campaigns and procedures for a decade. In 2009, she acted as front-running candidate, bringing her party back into Brandenburg State Parliament, where she then served as Deputy Head of Party Faction and Head of a Parliamentary Committee. During her ten years as Member of Parliament, she worked, inter alia, on amendments on electoral law, focusing on transparency and increased participation of women and youth in political processes. After her active political years, she served as member of the State Media Council (Medienrat) Berlin-Brandenburg, conducted election observation with OSCE/ODIHR in several post-soviet countries, worked for OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Donetsk/Ukraine and is currently working for the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia. She has also been engaged as a mediator and consultant for organisational development.

### **Barbara JOUAN STONESTREET (France/USA)**



Barbara Jouan Stonestreet served as a Senior Political Finance Expert at the French National Commission on Campaign Accounts and Political Party Financing (CNCCFP) from 2004 to 2014. She obtained her university law degree from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. She has been part of different international election missions and capacity building projects for the last 15 years with the OSCE/ODIHR, the Carter Center, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and International IDEA. She has also run several technical political finance assistance projects with a focus on the monitoring and enforcement of political finance regulations, notably for IFES, UNDP and NDI. She was one of the main drafters of the OSCE/ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of Campaign Finance, the author of the ACE Focus On piece on campaign finance and the European Commission's Study on Observing Political Finance in EU Election Observation Missions, and co-developer of IFES's online toolkit for political finance institutions, OVERSIGHT. She recently co-drafted the Commonwealth Compendium of Political Finance Laws and the European Parliament study on the financing of political structures in EU Member States. She regularly delivers trainings for international election observers and experts.

### **Richard KATZ (USA)**



Richard S. Katz is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he served as graduate director (1985-1995 and 2003-2009) and department chair (2009-2015). Within the European Consortium for Political Research, he was convenor of the Standing Group on Political Parties (1992-1999) and a member of the Executive Committee from 2012-2018 (Treasurer, 2012-2018; Vice-chair, 2015-18). His work has focused primarily on political parties, elections, and democratic theory in advanced industrial states. He was co-editor of the European Journal of Political Research (2007-2012) and of the EJPR Political Data Yearbook (1996-2006). His most recent book is *An Advanced Introduction to Party Politics*, (Edward Elgar, 2023). Other books include *A Theory of Parties and Electoral Systems* (Johns Hopkins 1980, 2006), *Democracy and Elections* (Oxford 1997), *Political Institutions in the United States* (Oxford, 2007), *Democracy and the Cartelization of Political Parties*, with Peter Mair (Oxford 2018), *Handbook of Party Politics*, ed. with William Crotty (Sage 2006), *The Challenges of Intra-Party Democracy*, ed. with William P. Cross, (Oxford 2013), and *The Personalization of Democratic Politics*, ed. with William Cross and Scott Pruyers (Rowman and Littlefield International, 2018).

### **Karina KOSIARA-PEDERSEN (Denmark)**



Karina Kosiara-Pedersen is currently Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen. She is currently working on providing advice, guidance and recommendations on future party regulation for Magtudredningen 2.0 (project on Danish democracy funded by the Parliament) and previously served on a three-person government expert committee on party regulation and party financing in 2014-2015, the results of which is published as 'Betænkning om åbenhed om økonomisk støtte til politiske partier'. Apart from substantial research on the topic of political parties, including political parties and gender, Ms. Kosiara-Pedersen has been engaged in the Political Party Database project ([www.politicalpartydb.org](http://www.politicalpartydb.org)) since its formation by contributing with both data collection on around 30 cases, and comparative analyses across the world. As an expert on the Danish political parties in particular, and the political system in general, she has contributed with a large number of publications on single parties or party families.

### **Magdalena MUSIAŁ-KARG (Poland)**



Magdalena Musiał-Karg is a Full Professor of Political Science at the Department of Political Systems, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. She served as Vice-Dean for Research and Development (2016–2020) and later as Vice-Dean for Research and Scientific Cooperation (2021–2024) at the same faculty. In November 2022, she was elected President of the Polish Political Science Association. Since July 2023, she has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). She is also a member of the Political Science Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2020–2023; 2024–2027) and serves as President of the Center for European Research and Education. Her research focuses on political systems, elections, direct democracy, and the role of new technologies in democratic processes - particularly i-voting. In recent years, her work has increasingly addressed the misuse of referendums and the risks they pose to democratic integrity, especially in the context of democratic backsliding, electoral manipulation, and authoritarian tendencies in contemporary politics. She is also engaged in research on women's political participation.

### **Magnus OHMAN (Sweden)**



Dr. Magnus Ohman has worked with political finance issues since the 1990s, focusing on increasing compliance, transparency and sustainable solutions. His research includes both country and macro-level studies of trends and practices in political finance oversight and related areas, such as abuse of state resources, gender equality, foreign interference and illicit financial flows. His practical work includes assistance to legislators, implementing agencies, civil society, media and political parties, and he has supported political finance initiatives in over 50 countries on all continents. Other initiatives include the IFES Vote For Free, a Global Guide to Citizen Monitoring of Campaign Finance, the IFES Oversight, Toolkit for Political Finance Institutions (with Barbara Jouan-Stonestreet and Lisa Klein) and the International IDEA Political Finance Database. His PhD thesis from Uppsala University, Sweden, focused on the candidate selection process within African political parties.

### **Tamara OTIASHVILI (Georgia)**



Tamara Otiashvili is a legal expert with a strong background in international electoral assistance and democratic governance. She holds a law degree from Tbilisi State University and an LL.M. from the University of Illinois. With over two decades of experience in international law, elections, and human rights, she has served in legal and advisory roles with the United Nations and ODIHR. Tamara has participated in, and co-led, numerous international election observation and technical assistance missions across various countries. Beyond her work in electoral assistance and observation, she has prepared legal assessments on political party legislation, electoral frameworks, the judiciary, among other areas. She has also provided expert advice on governance, constitutional law, and human rights. Her work includes authoring and contributing to a wide range of thematic reports and policy papers focused on electoral integrity, democratic institutions, and the rule of law.

### **Susan SCARROW (USA)**



Susan Scarrow is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Houston (United States), where she teaches courses in comparative politics. Her research focuses on the impact and evolution of multiple aspects of political party organization, including party membership, intra-party democracy and party finance. She is a founding co-director of the Political Party Database Project (PPDB), a cross-national initiative that collects and publicizes information on the organizational resources and practices of political parties in established and newer democracies. She has published two books on the evolution of party membership practices, has co-edited multiple volumes and journal special issues on evolving democratic practices, and has published in a wide range of academic journals. She currently serves as President of the American Political Science Association's section on Political Organizations and Parties.

### **Rokas STABINGIS (Lithuania)**



Rokas Stabingis has been serving as the Head of the Law and Investigation Unit at the Secretariat of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Lithuania since 2018. Prior to this role, he served as a member of the CEC from 2012. He holds an LL.M. in European Union Law from Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania) and has pursued additional studies at Lund University (Sweden) and the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (Italy). He has extensive expertise in election management and observation, electoral dispute resolution, campaign regulation, and political finance oversight. His professional interests also include personal data protection, public procurement, public administration, and emerging voting technologies.

### **Marcin WALECKI (Poland)**



Dr. Marcin Walecki has 30 years of democracy assistance and governance experience working in roughly 50 countries around the world, implementing programs dealing with democratic governance, anti-corruption and political finance, political party assistance, and parliamentary support. From October 2022 to May 2025, he was the Senior Resident Country Director for the National Democratic Institute in Ukraine. Prior to rejoining the NDI team, Dr. Walecki served as the Executive Director of the EUROPAEUM, a network of eighteen leading European Universities, as well as the Head of the Democratization Department with OSCE/ODIHR. He also worked at the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) as the Executive Director, and as a Senior Advisor for political finance for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). He is a board member of the Institute of Public Affairs and the School for Leaders. Dr. Walecki holds degrees from the Department of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw (cum laude) and Oxford University (DPhil in Politics). He is a former Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, and a Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. He has a strong interest in democratization, political parties, political finance, political corruption, and has written extensively on these topics. Dr. Walecki collaborated with International IDEA, OECD, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and the Council of Europe (Venice Commission and GRECO).