

WEASA2025 Speakers



2000-20**25** YEARS
**POLISH-AMERICAN
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Natolin



#WEASA2025 Key Note Speaker



Michał Baranowski

Deputy Minister of Economic
Development and Technology

Michał Baranowski is Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Technology in Poland. Prior, he was serving as Managing Director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States EAST.

Baranowski is a member of the Polish-German reflection group established by the presidents of Poland and Germany. He holds a master's degree in European public affairs from Maastricht University and has studied at Mercer University in the United States and at the University of Oxford.

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#WEASA2025 Speaker



Oliver Marsh

Head of Tech Research at AlgorithmWatch

Oliver Marsh is the Head of Tech Research at AlgorithmWatch, where he leads the organization's research work and partnerships in policy areas such as the Digital Services Act, and is also responsible for integrating research strategy into campaigning and advocacy efforts.

He is also an independent expert on platform research and online harms, and previously worked on platform and data governance as an official in Downing Street in the UK, and as an analyst for CASM Technology, The Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Demos, and The Tony Blair Institute. He holds a PhD in sociology of social media from University College London and a degree in Natural Sciences & History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University

#WEASA2025 Speaker



Kinga Klich

Head of Disinformation
Counteraction Department at Demagog

Kinga Klich is the Head of the Disinformation and Counteraction Department at Demagog, a Polish fact-checking organisation. Since 2018, she has been involved in tackling disinformation at the Demagog Association. Since 2020, she has been coordinating a team dedicated to verifying false information on social media. As a mentor at the Fact-Checking Academy, she conducts workshops for youth, students, teachers, and seniors on combating false information and online safety.

She holds a degree in Sociology and Media Management and Advertising from Jagiellonian University. As part of the Erasmus program, she pursued studies at the University of Paris X Nanterre. Her master's thesis, titled "Pandemic Quacks – Disinformation in Personal Branding Management".

#WEASA2024 Speaker



Philip Bednarczyk

GMF Warsaw Office Director

Philip Bednarczyk is GMF's Warsaw Office Director. He joined the organization after serving as the senior Europe adviser on the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee and staff director for the House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats for then-Ranking Member Gregory Meeks. Prior to that, he was a Bosch Foundation fellow in Germany. He also worked for an American NGO in Moscow, and for the EU in Brussels and Tallinn.

A dual Polish-American citizen, Bednarczyk studied at Fordham University and received a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

#WEASA2025 Speaker



Sopo Gelava

Research Associate at the
Atlantic Council's DFD Lab

Sopo Gelava is a research associate for the Caucasus with the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab. Prior to the DFRLab, she served as media literacy programs director at Media Development Foundation, leading Georgian think-tank countering disinformation and information operations. Sopo teaches fact-checking and verification courses at the University of Georgia (UG).

X: SGelava

#WEASA2025 Speaker



Dominik P. Jankowski

**Director of the Economics & Security Committee
at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

Dominik P. Jankowski is an international security expert, diplomat, and think-tanker with over 15 years of professional experience. He currently serves as Director of the Economics and Security Committee (ESC) at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Prior to joining the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in 2025, he served in national and international functions at NATO HQ. From 2018 to 2022, he worked as Political Advisor and Head of the Political Section at the Permanent Delegation of Poland to NATO. Later, he served as Policy Adviser in the Office of the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (2023-2024) as well as Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to NATO (2024-2025).

X: @dpjankowski

#WEASA2025 Speaker



Łukasz Król

Journalist, cyber security specialist

Łukasz Król is a researcher, lecturer, facilitator, and digital security trainer. With a background in technology and political science, he studies the ways in which we can bridge our technological and social realities. Łukasz currently focuses on digital security teaching pedagogies and tool selection, algorithmic bias, and the wider relationship between humans and technology.

More about Łukasz can be found [here](#).

#WEASA2025 Speaker



Giorgi Iashvili

Cyber security expert

Giorgi Iashvili is a cybersecurity strategy & governance professional with over 19 years of leadership experience, specializing in critical infrastructure protection and resilience against advanced hybrid threats, including state-sponsored cyberattacks.

He has played a key role in advancing cybersecurity governance in Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Greece. His work has focused on strengthening the resilience of critical sectors, such as elections, finance, healthcare, and energy, across the Wider Black Sea and Western Balkans regions.

Giorgi is currently an Associate Expert at the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre, an Associate Professor at Business and Technology University, and Founder of Cyber Trust, a regional cybersecurity consultancy.

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#WEASA2025 Speaker



Jakub Szymik

Founder of CEE Digital Democracy Watch

Jakub Szymik is a lawyer specialising in digital and EU policy, with over a decade of experience in policy development and communications for non-profits, trade associations, and consumer groups. As the founder of CEE Digital Democracy Watch, he leads the organisation's efforts on election integrity and technology regulation.

Jakub's expertise is recognised internationally; he was a 2024 Fellow at the Institute of Technology and Society in Rio de Janeiro and a participant in the "Recharging Advocacy for Rights" program at the Hertie School of Governance. His work focuses on crafting policies that balance technological innovation with democratic values and human rights.

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#WEASA2025 Speaker



Tiziano Marino

Head of the Asia-Pacific analysis unit at
CeSI - Centro Studi Internazionali

Tiziano Marino's main fields of expertise are International Security & Geoeconomics. He published extensively on the Indo-Pacific, particularly on the EU and Italian strategy for the region, India-EU relations, India-Pakistan relations, Chinese domestic & foreign policy & security dynamics in Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Korean peninsula and Taiwan.

He is Lecturer for Defence companies & the Banking sector on the geoeconomics & security dynamics of South, Southeast & Central Asia, for the School of Economic and Financial Police on security dynamics in the Indo Pacific, Instructor at FAO in the "Safe & Secure Approaches in Field Environments" course. He is often interviewed on Asia-Pacific issues by Italian & international media. More about Tiziano can be found [here](#).

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#WEASA2025 Speaker



Adam Balcer

Program Director, Jan Nowak-
Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe

Adam Balcer is a Program Director at the Jan Nowak-Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe and a lecturer at the Center for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw. He is the author of several books, articles and reports in Polish, English and German about Polish foreign policy, the Balkans, Cyprus, Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.