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Type: Roundtable

Foreign Policy (Analysis) in a World of Personalist Rule

Friday 5 June 2026 15:00 (1h 30m)

This roundtable explores the implications of the rise of personalism for Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA). The angles from which this question will be approached include: the relationship between personalist rule and the growing politicization of foreign policy, with the suggestion being that the latter is both an instrument and a response to personalist rule; the challenges and opportunities the rise of AI present for foreign policy leaders in a world of personalist rule; how personalistic rule exemplifies the strong connection between how foreign policy is made and substantive foreign policy outcomes, specifically in the sense that leader personality, and dynamic aspects of personality change in particular, underpin both changes in process and changes in outcomes; the role of personalist leaders in eroding foreign policy bureaucracies; and the role that emotions and gendered approaches to leadership play in foreign policy-making. In so doing, the roundtable seeks to develop and critically assess possible new directions in FPA theorising.

Key words:

Foreign policy

Leaders

Populism

Decision-making

Track Classification: Foreign Policy Working Group