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Jan Zielonka is Professor of European Politics at the University of Oxford, Ralf Dahrendorf Fellow at St Antony's College and the Principal Investigator of the large, ERC-funded project on 'Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe'. He studied Law at the University of Wrocław, Poland, and Political Science at the University of Warsaw from which he received his PhD in 1981. In 1982 he settled in the Netherlands, first at the University of Groningen and from 1984 at the University of Leiden. In January 1996 he was appointed Professor of Political Science at the European University Institute in Florence (Joint Chair in European Studies at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the Department of Political and Social Sciences). He took up his present position at the University of Oxford in January 2004.

He has published numerous works in the fields of comparative politics, the history of political ideas, international relations, human rights and security. His current research deals with the evolving nature of the European Union, its efforts to project power and spread norms in its external relations, and the process of its eastward enlargement. He is also working on a comparison of four contemporary 'empires': America, China, Europe and Russia. His books include *Europe as Empire: The Nature of the Enlarged European Union* (Oxford University Press, 2006); *Europe Unbound: Enlarging and Reshaping the Boundaries of the European Union* (ed.) (Routledge, 2002); *Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe* (ed. with Alex Pravda, 2 vols.) (Oxford University Press, 2001); *Explaining Euro-paralysis. Why Europe is Unable to Act in International Politics* (Macmillan, 1998); and *Political Ideas in Contemporary Poland* (Avebury, 1989).