Given its interest in what makes or breaks authoritarian regimes, the recent literature on authoritarianism is mainly interested in the games played by elites trying to seize or maintain power. This approach therefore tends to focus on the relationship between the leaders of authoritarian regimes and their opponents, who are also often elites. It thus highlights how institutions are instrumentalized in inclusion/exclusion processes, especially of elite (Cheibub et al. 2010; Gandhi 2009; Svolik 2012). A second stream focuses on the relationship between rulers and their populations, the lambda citizens that the first approach neglects. It conceives the relationship to power in a more subtle way, going beyond the open confrontations between a regime and its opponents conceived in the traditional way. This "bottom-up" approach analyzes the small arrangements of everyday life in the face of power, and not the "crises" of confrontations between elites. This everyday life is the site of discreet resistance or at least negotiations (Abu-Lughod 1990; Bayart 1984; Hibou 2006; Rowell 2006).

These two currents perpetuate a conception of authoritarianism dominated by a trio of actors and their relationships: authorities-opponents and authorities-citizens. However, there is another category of actors to consider. These are individuals who enjoy a certain social status, privilege or influence at the national or local level, but who are not actors in formal politics. They are nevertheless distinguished from the so-called "ordinary" citizen by their privileged position and advantages. They are the intermediaries of authoritarianism. Beyond the occasional crises attributed to political opponents, beyond the daily offence/support to power, there is a density of political interaction in an authoritarian context partly carried by these intermediaries.

The aim of this project is to highlight the role played by these intermediaries in the system that is authoritarianism.

**KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

A. Comprehensive bibliography of existing documents and sources on the intermediaries of authoritarianism
30% of final grade

B. Annotated bibliography of the 10 most important resources identified

30% of final grade

C. Critical reflection on the contribution of the literature studied to understanding the intermediaries of authoritarianism.

40% of final grade