

Workshop

Towards a theory of the EU as an international security provider: actors, processes, outcomes, impact

Conveners: Richard G. Whitman & Stefan Wolff

Over the past decade the EU has increasingly taken on a role as international security provider that extends well beyond the geographical scope of its membership. This is obvious in the wide range of military and civilian crisis management missions that the EU has undertaken. But also identifiable with a range of other policies, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and development assistance, that have at least in part become more security focused. Our workshop seeks to analyse the EU's role as an international security actor in a comprehensive way focusing on the making of EU security policy and its implementation. We seek to develop a framework of analysis that will cover the actors involved in the policy making process, the dynamics of this process itself, its outcomes (concrete strategies and policies) and their impact. To establish such a framework of analysis, which could serve as the foundation for a mid-range theory of the EU as an international security provider, will be the main focus of the workshop and build on a range of papers that examine the relevance of, and apply, existing theories of international relations/international security and foreign policy analysis to the specific case of the EU, that investigate empirically how particular policies are formulated and implemented, and that analyse, in single and comparative case studies, the impact and effectiveness of the EU as an international security provider.

With this overarching objective in mind, we seek to:

- Apply and synthesise existing theoretical frameworks of international relations/international security, international organisation, and foreign policy analysis to the case of the EU and its role as international security provider;
- Conceptualise the notion of actorness in the context of the EU as an international security provider and relate it in detail to the process of policy making in relation to the EU's international security role;
- Examine empirically how the EU conceptualises security overall and how this feeds into different policy areas relevant to its international security role, including, in particular, the formulation of international security policy/policies;
- Investigate empirically how such outcomes of the policy-making process translate into impacts, whether these impacts achieve EU objectives, and whether and why particular such policies are more/less likely to succeed in achieving EU objectives;
- Use such single and comparative case studies to reflect on the utility of particular theoretical approaches to the study of the EU as an international security provider in order to contribute towards further theoretical development in this area.

The proposed workshop will thus encourage dialogue among scholars from different sub-fields of political science and international relations, assist in integrating theoretical and empirical debates on the EU as an international security provider, and further the development of a mid-range theory of the EU as a security actor that seeks to bridge the traditional gap between accounts of policy-making and policy impact.

We hope to attract a wide range of participants from across relevant (sub-) disciplines, representing a good mix of up to 25 established and junior scholars, including PhD students working on relevant topics, and presenting theoretical and empirical papers of a single case and comparative nature in each of our anticipated five sessions:

Session 1: Theories of foreign policy/foreign policy analysis in relation to international security and their applicability to the EU

Here we would hope to have a range of more conceptual and theoretical papers, some of which may include empirical case studies, for example to illustrate the applicability of a particular theory to the EU.

Session 2: Who makes EU security policy? How is it made?

In this session we will cover the actors involved in the policy making process and the dynamics of this process itself.

Session 3: What policies are produced?

In this session we would expect predominantly empirical papers grounded in various approaches of foreign and security policy analysis.

Session 4: What impact do they have?

Papers in this session should also be predominantly empirical in focus, but we would also be keen for authors to relate their empirical findings to existing theoretical and conceptual work. In this session we would also seek a number of comparative papers to offer a wider range of empirical cases to inform our discussions.

Session 5: Explaining the EU's security policy: actors/processes/outcomes/impacts

Papers in the concluding session of our workshop will be more conceptual and theoretical in their general focus, but draw on empirical case studies as appropriate.

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