

Call for Papers

The Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (GGGS), the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER), the Geneva Centre d'études juridiques européennes and European Papers: A Journal on Law and Integration

In cooperation with Actore (Antwerp University), LINES (KU Leuven), Ghent University, Hasselt University, Vesalius College – VUB

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Interdisciplinary Doctoral Symposium

Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in Europe and the World in Times of Contestation

Leuven, 20-21 September 2018

The Doctoral Symposium will consist of one day and a half of presentations by, and discussions with, PhD researchers, in interaction with senior academic experts, and a half day public session with presentations and discussions between invited senior scholars and practitioners from the EU institutions.

Symposium Directors are Prof. Dr. Enzo Cannizzaro (Rome), Prof. Dr. Christine Kaddous (Geneva), Prof. Dr. Ramses Wessel (Twente) and Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters (Leuven).

Theme of the Symposium

The European Union's (EU) commitment to the pursuit of a 'principled' foreign policy is well-grounded in the provisions of the EU Treaties. The implementation of this commitment, however, has been found wanting in numerous instances, making scholars frequently question the way and the extent to which values and ideals, such as the promotion of the rule of law and human rights, clash with material interests in EU external relations. Faced with a hardening international environment and domestic crises, the EU appears to be adjusting some of its rhetoric and action: the 2016 Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, for example, speaks of the 'principled pragmatism' which should guide the EU's external action in the years ahead. The Symposium will address, in addition to the EU's acts and omissions abroad concerning the trinity of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, problems and challenges regarding the EU's internal capacity on safeguarding democracy, human rights and the rule of law within its own Member States, and relating to its promotion of these values and principles on the international stage. It will also examine how current contestation of the European project and of a rules-based and cooperative international order may affect the EU's ability to promote and uphold its core values, both within and beyond its borders. The nature and impact of this multifaceted legitimacy crisis will thus be taken into account, looking into the constraints and opportunities this may hold for the EU as a global actor and the challenges the EU faces in regaining the trust of European citizens.

The Symposium welcomes contributions from various disciplines of the humanities and social sciences (law, political science, political economy, ...) in order to address the research theme in a comprehensive and multi-faceted fashion. Contributions from different fields concerning a particular research topic will be combined in panels in order to foster interdisciplinarity.

More concretely, topics include:

- the EU's efforts and failures to promote the rule of law, democracy and human rights abroad, including specific policy and geographical case studies;
- the EU's internal capacity and domestic perceptions of the purported principled foreign policy, in particular instances of domestic disenchantment with EU policy, increasingly caused by EU scepticism, the rise of national populism and populist parties and growing contestation over forms of legitimate governance;
- the EU's (perceived) failure in upholding democracy and the rule of law in the context of recent crises in its Member States (financial crisis, migration, terrorism), the subsequent decline in citizens' trust and its effect on the EU's global standing in the promotion of its values;
- the effect of Member State dynamics, that put the EU's external relations' permissive consensus into question, including rule of law and democratic backsliding, the electoral success of populist parties as well as the (re-)nationalization of Member States' foreign policies;
- the impact of the politicisation of EU integration and EU agency through 'identity politics', on EU external (and internal) action and the constraints it may place on the EU's global actorness;
- the EU's ability to perform as a normative power in international relations and to arrive at a coherent foreign policy across various dimensions of its external relations as well as between its internal legal and political developments and external promotion of principles ;
- the EU's role in fostering multilateralism in an increasingly contested global order and in ensuring the resilience of international norms, in the context of growing pressure for their re-negotiation;
- the EU's constraints and opportunities in (re-)building and maintaining cooperation and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, with key global partners (i.e. the United States and Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, 'BRICS'), considering their shifts in strategic outlook and the challenges they raise vis-à-vis the global liberal order;
- the EU's participation in and cooperation with regional and global international organizations, in particular those concerned with the promotion of normative objectives (e.g. the UN Human Rights Council, Council of Europe, etc.);
- the effect of global contestation of the international liberal order and the EU's response, action and instruments towards such contestation;
- the EU-wide promotion of democracy and the rule of law and the challenges of bridging cross-national pluralism and establishing a legitimate source authority beyond the nation state;
- the EU's role in the global promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights and the challenges of (re-)establishing a framework for the global legitimacy of international norms and institutions.
- the EU's use of trade and investment policy to pursue non-trade objectives and its effectiveness with special attention for market access instruments (GSP, conflict minerals regulation) and bilateral trade agreements.
- the EU's use of sanctions against specific countries and the effectiveness of these sanctions.

Conditions for submission

Interested PhD students and young scholars should submit proposal summaries, in English only, of 3000 characters (approximately one page). The proposals should address the themes of the Workshop mentioned above. The said proposals, accompanied by detailed CVs and motivation letters should be submitted to profjanwouters@ggs.kuleuven.be no later than **Monday 2 July 2018**.

Selection process

The organisers will review the submitted proposals. A final selection will be made, and communicated, by **Monday 16 July 2018**.

Confirmed participants are expected to provide complete drafts of their papers, of between 8000-10.000 words, in electronic form, no later than **Friday 14 September 2018**.

Organization and coverage of costs

We will cover part of travel costs on a needs-based basis as well as the meals for the selected participants. Accommodation costs in Brussels will be taken in charge either by the participants or by the Universities or Research Centres or Institutes to which they are affiliated.

Publication

The final version of the papers will be published in *European Papers*, in the Geneva Jean Monnet Working Papers, in the CLEER and GGS working paper series, after having gone through the editorial review required by the organizers. Depending on the coherence and quality of the papers produced, an edited volume may be considered.